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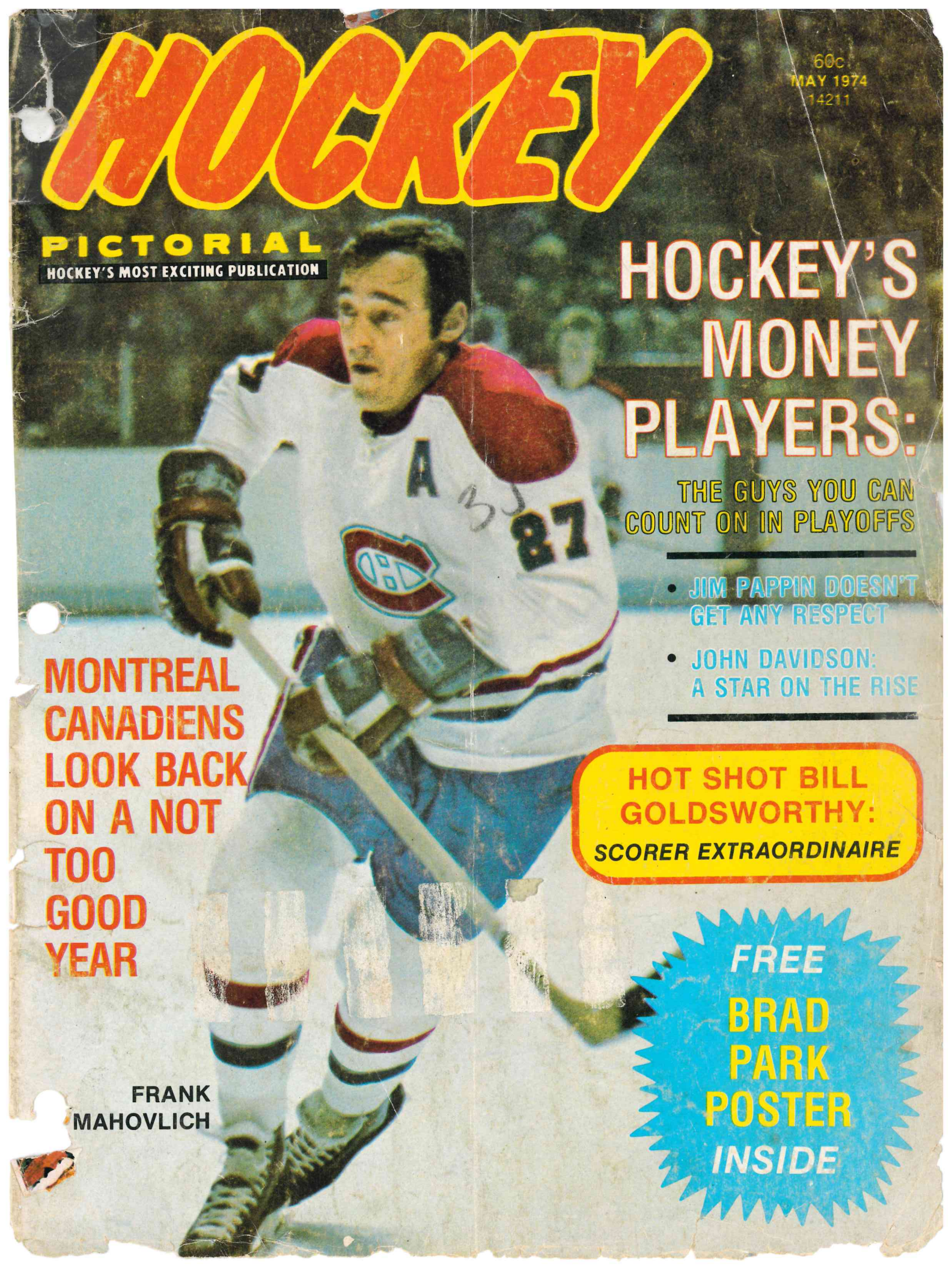

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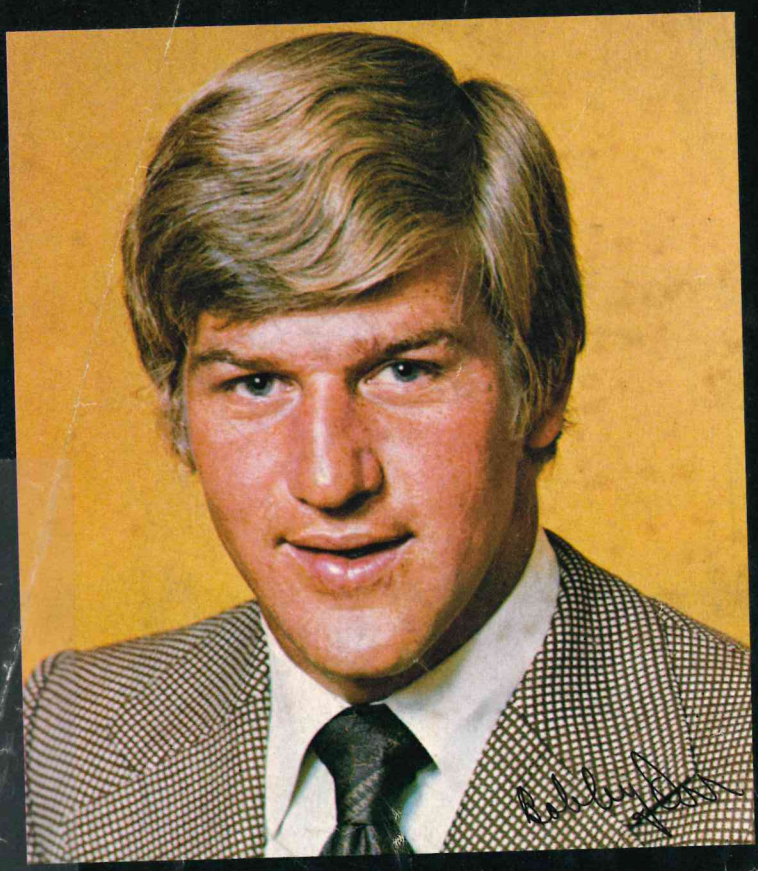

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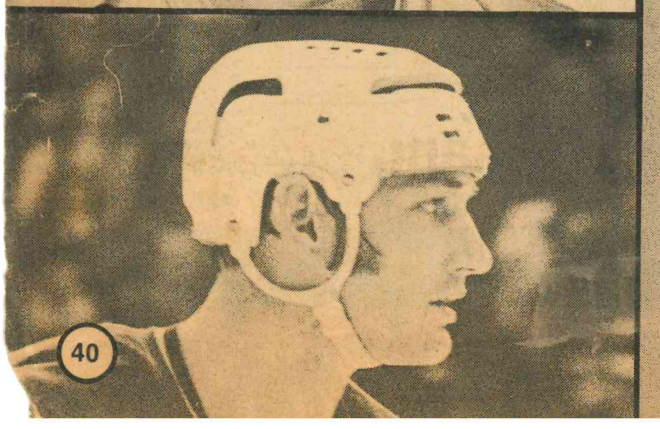

WHAT YOU'LL FIND ON THE INSIDE

10 It Wasn't A Very Good Year For The Montreal Canadiens
By Chris Zelkovich
16 Borje Salming And Inge Hammarstrom: How Swede It Is!
By Margaret Scott
22 John Davidson: A Star On The Rise
By Donald Berns
28 Jim Pappin Doesn't Get Any Respect
By Mike Dennis
36 Hockey's Money Players: The Men Who Shine In The Playoffs
By Mike Dennis
40 Goldy: Goal Scorer Extraordinaire
By Norm MacLean
44 Bob Liddington: The Thinking Man's Cougar
By Gene Holcombe
50 Practice Makes Perfect For The Philadelphia Flyers
By Ed Conrad
54 Max McNab Finds Happiness In The Shadows
By Bill Libby
58 AHL: Sharing The Playoff Wealth
By Hans Tanner
60 The CHL Orphans Had Trouble
By Tom Lobaugh
62 Dave Simpson: Gem Of The Dayton Gems
By Len Hoyes
64 Bobby Guindon: Playing In Obscurity In The NAHL
By Derek Knight

AND OUR REGULAR FEATURES

6 The Fans Do The Talking
8 Get A Few Laughs In Our Cartoon Corner
24 Hockey Crossword
46 Do You Know Your Players? Try The Picto-Quiz
49 The Way It Was

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FAN TALK

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FAVELL A FAVORITE

I think Red Kelly made a wise decision to go with two goalies in a need to get something going for the Toronto Maple Leafs. Starting Kelly's new system was Doug Favell and it wasn't a bad choice, either. Favell has come through when needed in the Leafs' drive for the Stanley Cup, winning three straight games, the last of which was a 6-4 win in Boston. Something the Leafs hadn't done in a couple of years was win in Boston. I think Favell will be the Leafs' key to the Stanley Cup.

Claude Archer,
Port McNicoll, Ont.

(The Leafs will first have to learn how to win more often in Boston.)

KEEN ON KEON

The article on Dave Keon in the February issue was great. It's about time someone recognized one of the best centers in the NHL. He never gets many All Star votes, but it doesn't bother him. I feel Dave is one of the most consistent hockey players in the league. How about an article on Borje Salming?

Bernie Golas,
Arborg, Man.

(How about turning to page 16?)

VIVE VACHON!

I read your magazines and they say that Ken Dryden and Tony Esposito are the league's top goalies. Not so! Flashy Rogatien Vachon is very much underrated. He's got five shutouts. Montreal's worst trade came when they traded Rogie to Los Angeles. In my opinion he's the best goalie in the NHL.

Rick Kinne,
Gibsons, B.C.

(You fail to mention that Esposito and Bernie Parent have 10 shutouts.)

SUPPORT SITTLER

The Toronto Maple Leafs have increased greatly to be a Stanley Cup contender as they have been known for in the past. One of the big reasons is the hard-working, scrappy centerman Darryl Sittler. Last season he led the Leafs in scoring. He never gives less than 100 percent every time he's on the ice. In my opinion Sittler rates at the top of my list along with Esposito, Ullman, Clarke, Dionne, Perreault and Keon. Sittler is without a doubt the most underrated center on the Maple Leafs.

Tim Gleason,
Buffalo, N.Y.

(His contract says he's not so underrated.)

WHA DESERVES MORE

I think the WHA deserves more coverage than the minor leagues. I wonder if you could have two WHA articles in each issue instead of one. Maybe you could also have an occasional WHA poster in the centerfold.

Graham Cuthbert,
Willowdale, Ont.

(We had a centerfold of Bobby Hull in the nude, but it was censored.)

GORING, GORING, GONE!

The prime candidate for the Lady Byng Trophy should be Butch Goring of the LA Kings. In case you eastern sportswriters don't know where Los Angeles is, it's about 3,000 miles west of New York. In case you don't know who Butch Goring is, just contact your local defenseman — he'll know. In case you don't know who the LA Kings are, they'll be passing through Chicago or Philadelphia in late April.

Jerry Darling,
S. Pasadena, Cal.

(Where's Chicago? Where's Philadelphia?)

IAN THE GREAT

I think the Toronto Maple Leafs is the most improved team in the NHL and have a great chance at the Stanley Cup. One of the reasons for their

(Continued on page 53)

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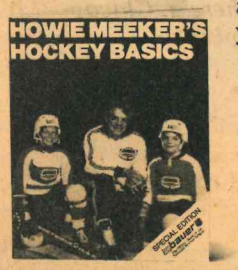

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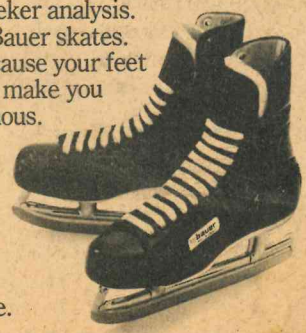

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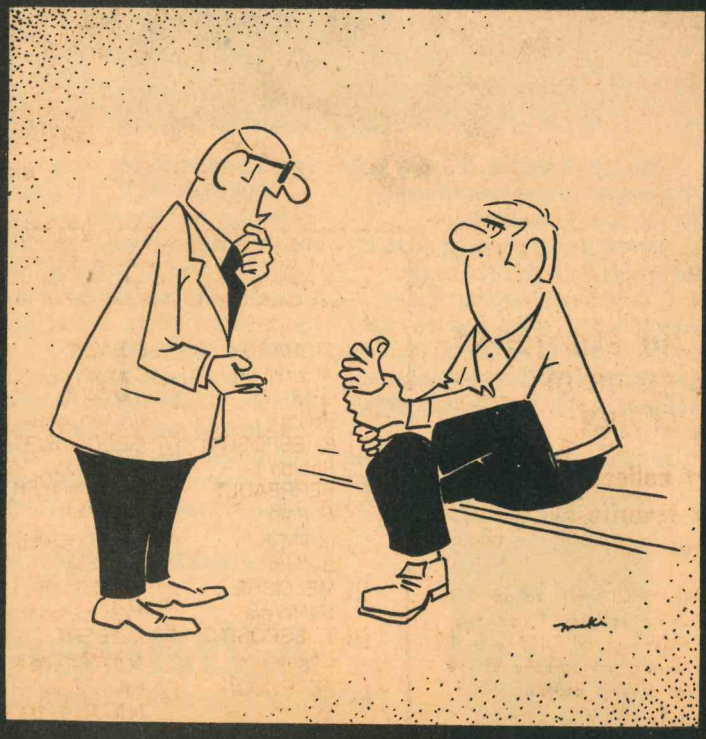

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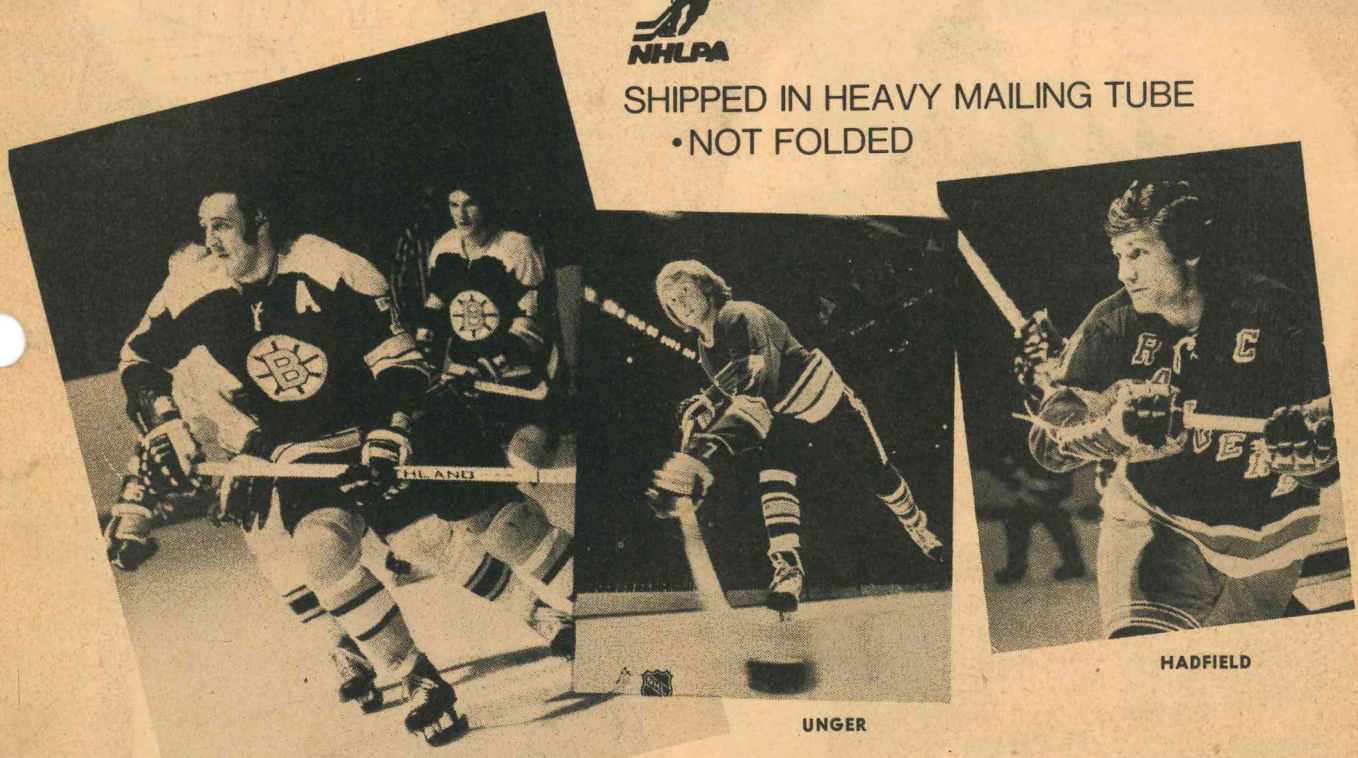

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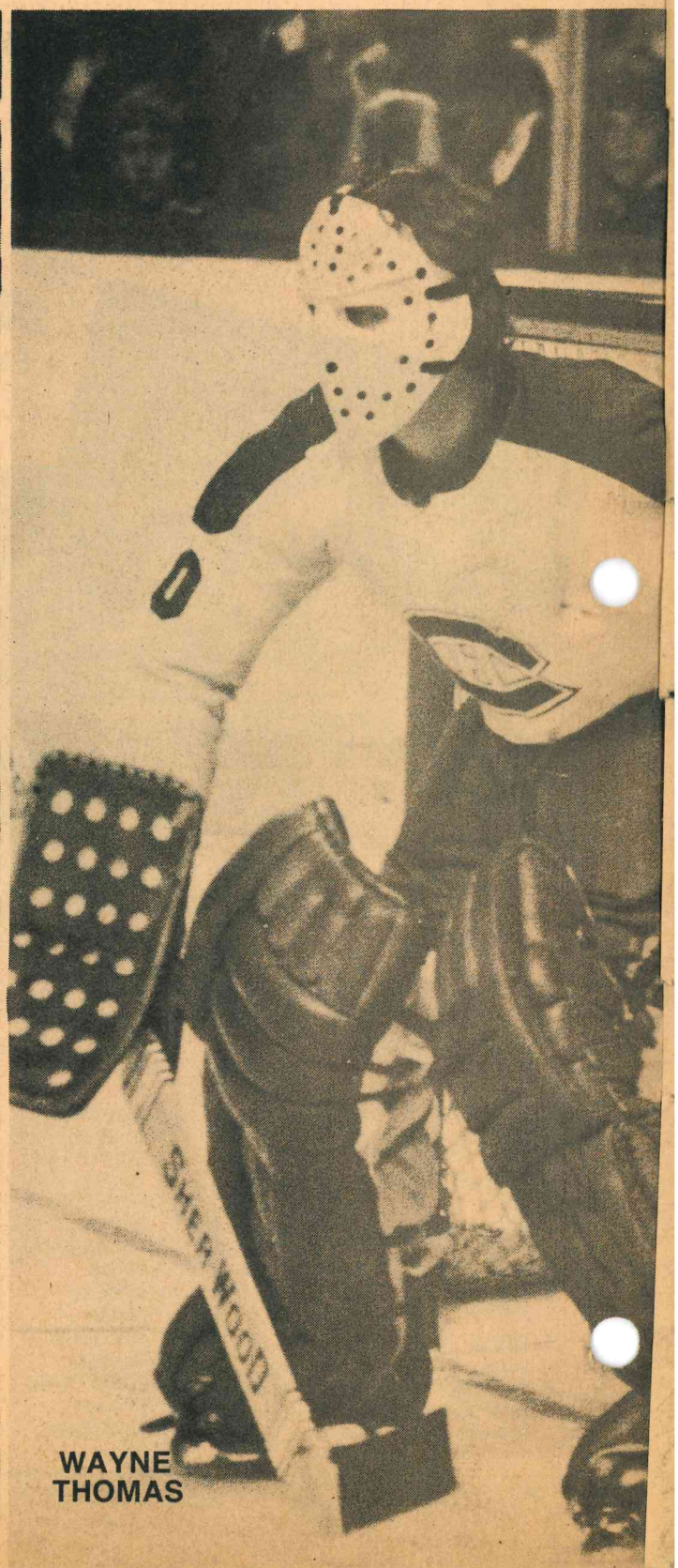
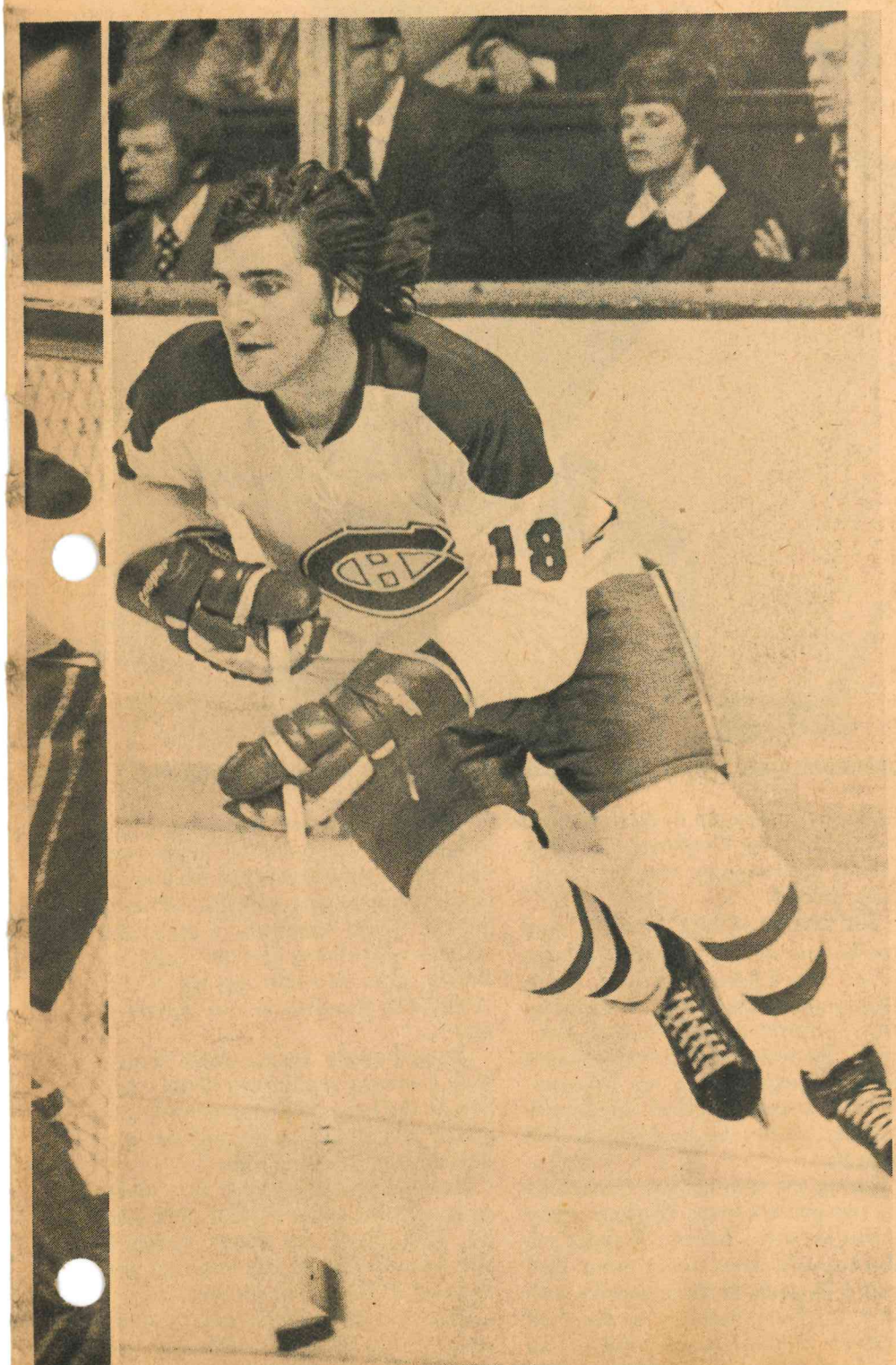


WAYNE
THOMAS

ERY GOOD YEAR

The Montreal Canadiens became an average hockey team this year and one of sport's last remaining dynasties appeared at an end.



SERGE SAVARD

BY CHRIS ZELKOVICH

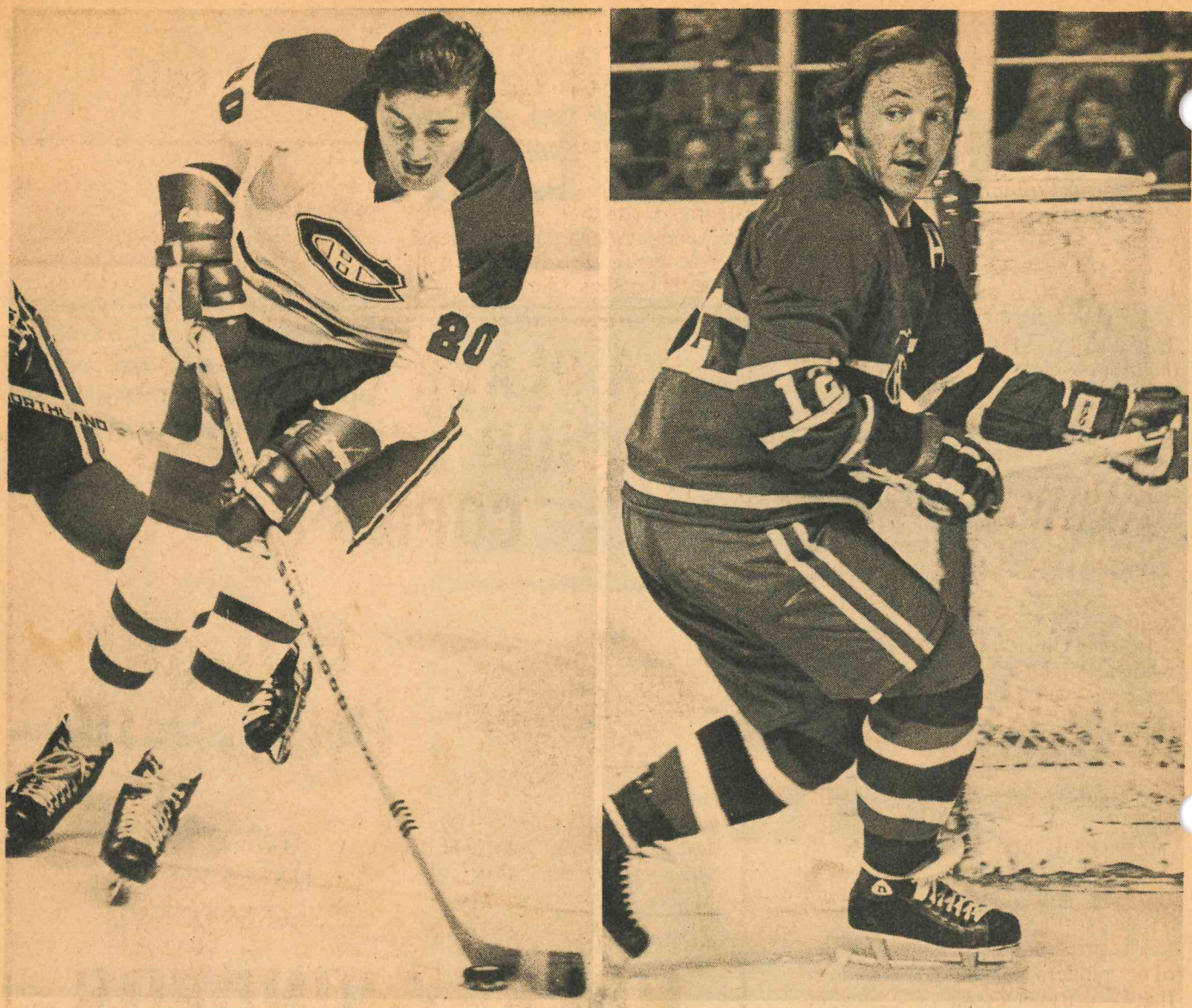
JUST BEFORE the first game of the 1973-74 National Hockey League season in Minnesota, Montreal Canadiens' coach Scotty Bowman received a telephone call from a St. Paul reporter.

"Tell me," the reporter said. "Do you think you can repeat last year's record?" He was referring to the NHL record the Canadiens set in 1972-73 by losing only 10 games.

"Would it be alright if we lost only 12 games this season?" Bowman asked. "After all, the teams that had the record lost 13."

Yes, Scotty, it would have been alright if you had lost only 12 games. It probably wouldn't have been too bad if you'd lost 15 or 16 games. But losing more than 20 games, that's not alright at all.

These three did not have much to talk about this year, either.



Pete Mahovlich, left, and Yvan Cournoyer were two of the Canadiens who did have good seasons.

No one really expected the Canadiens to repeat the season they had in 1972-73. That performance was a once-in-a-lifetime thing. But then, no one really expected them to play as inconsistently as they did this year, either.

The Canadiens played poor hockey throughout most of the season. The dropped from first place contention in January and in March were in a neck-and-neck battle with the New York Rangers for second place.

With only nine games remaining in the season the Canadiens had scored 33 goals less than the previous season and given up 58 more.

But the greatest drop cannot be measured in statistics. Where the Canadiens walked to victory last season, they skated uphill this time. The lost a season series to the sophomore Atlanta Flames, lost once at home to the worst road team in NHL history — the California Golden Seals. Their overall performance was very ordinary, indeed.

The sinking of the Canadiens' ship can be attributed to three things. First, the Canadiens lost three players and were unable to come up with suitable replacements. Secondly, the team was hit by the worst flood of injuries in its history. Thirdly, many veterans apparently lost the ability to perform at full capacity.

During the summer the Canadiens lost two players to the World Hockey Association. Marc Tardif, a 24-year-old speedster who had scored 78 goals in three season with the Canadiens, jumped to the Los Angeles Sharks. Rejean Houle, an excellent defensive forward, signed with the Quebec Nordiques.

The losses were important, but originally not considered staggering. But the Canadiens were unable to come up with any suitable replacements. Yvon Lambert, a muscular winger who skates like he's wearing boots, was brought up from the American League to fill Tardif's spot.

Touted as the French John Ferguson, Lambert spent most of the season on the bench and scored only six goals. His ability to hit and use his muscle was questionable.

Bob Gainey, the Habs' first draft pick, was the other replacement and he, too, came up short. Gainey scored only three goals and was not as good a checker as Houle.

Probably the greatest loss, though, came in the nets. Ken Dryden, the Vezina Trophy winner last season and one best goaltender in hockey,

Injuries contributed to the Habs' fall

announced one day before training camp that he would not play this year.

He wanted more money and when he didn't get it, he chose to sit out the year to finish his articling as a lawyer.

The decision to let Dryden go turned out to be the most regrettable one the Canadiens made.

His replacements, Wayne Thomas, Michel Larocque and Michel Plasse, were not adequate. Although Thomas and Larocque kept their goals-against averages below 3.00, none was consistent enough to give the Canadiens the goaltending to which they had become accustomed.

Former Canadian John Ferguson, who was highly critical of the team's performance this season, agreed that the management had made a grave mistake in letting Dryden leave.

"Last year the Canadiens had the same bad first and second periods," Ferguson said, "but Dryden would always keep them in it. They would come out with a 0-0 tie and win it in the third. Now they're falling behind 3-0 and can't catch up."

The major failure of the Habs' trio of netminders was that it was exactly that — a trio. Outside of a 12-game hot streak by Thomas in November, none of the three was consistent enough to claim the number one job.

Thomas showed the most potential of the three and played the most games. But Wayne's problem was his varying play. He conjured up memories of Dryden some nights with his great glove work and quick reflexes. On other nights he looked like a minor leaguer.

The same held true for the other two, although they showed even less consistency than Thomas. Ferguson's statement that Dryden was worth 35 games a season became more and more credible as the year wore on. It's doubtful that the Canadiens will head into next season with the same inconsistent goaltending they've had this year.

One of the three will have to assert himself or the Canadiens can expect a quick exit from the playoffs and at least one of the three can expect to play elsewhere next year.

The injury situation was probably the greatest factor in the Canadiens' slide this season. The Habs were hit with more injuries than any other team in the league, with most of the injuries occuring to key personnel.

The injury list was almost endless. Claude Larose, who broke his leg in the previous season's playoffs, didn't

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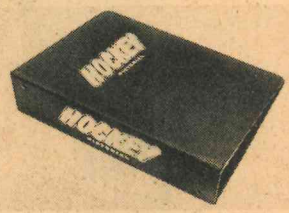

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Guy Lapointe, an All Star defenseman, was plagued by injuries most of the season.

start this year until mid-December — 36 games into the season. As if things hadn't gone badly enough for Claude, in the midst of a 10-goal in five-game scoring streak, he wound up on the receiving end of a two-handed chop by Pittsburgh's Bob Kelly and suffered a fractured ankle.

Yvan Cournoyer, who would have easily surpassed the 40-goal mark (again), missed 11 games due to knee injuries. Jacques Lemaire, a 40-goal man last season, sat out a dozen games with a shoulder injury and was ineffective for at least another dozen while receperating.

All Star defenseman Guy Lapointe played with sundry hurts all season, missing six games, while steady rearguard Jacques Laperriere was lost for the rest of the season when he suffered a knee injury in February.

Another defenseman, Serge Savard, missed 11 games because of injuries while fifth defenseman Pierre Bouchard sat out a half dozen with a hand injury, food poisoning and a foot injury.

Veteran Frank Mahovlich, who had scored 38 goals in 1972-73, including his 500th career goal, missed 11 games and was ineffective most of the season. He was the Habs' top scorer late in the year with just over 70 points. Last year, Lemaire led the team in scoring with 95.

Only two players on the team managed to appear in every game, Pete

The Canadiens are still waiting for Guy Lafleur to live up to his potential.

Mahovlich and defenseman Larry Robinson.

It was the injuries that revealed the Habs' newfound weakness — bench strength. Houle and Tardif had done excellent jobs as fouth-line mates, and although Lambert, Gainey, Dave Gardner and Steve Shutt filled in well in spots, none were able to provide the offense that Tardif did (25 goals last year) or the defensive play of Houle.

Injuries also contributed to poor performances by a key veteran. Cournoyer's point production was down because of the games he missed. But injuries had little to do with the poor performances of other players.

Lemaire did not once resemble the man who terrorized goaltenders with his blistering slapshot the previous year. Frank Mahovlich appeared to be skating at half-speed all season and his goal production dropped by 10.

Guy Lafleur, the boy wonder from Quebec, had scored 57 goals in his first two season with the Canadiens. With a half dozen games left on the schedule, he was still struggling to reach 20.

The only veterans who performed well were Pete Mahovlich, who raised his goals total to over 30, and the oldest of the Canadiens, Henri Richard. Jim Roberts, the jack of all trades, was a valuable member of the team as well.

Several of the younger players failed to come through as expected. Last season, Murray Wilson scored 18 goals as a part-timer. This season, he scored 17 as a full-timer. Shutt, who has the talent to scored 40 goals a year, didn't even hit the 15-mark.

The list goes on and on. Poor performances were easy to find, good ones scarce. Dissension reared its head every once in awhile. Laperriere lashed out at Bowman and Bowman lashed back. The players didn't seem to listen to Bowman and he himself admitted having problems getting through to the players.

Things were not quite the way they were a year ago when the Canadiens were the best team in NHL history.

All in all, it was not a very good year ★

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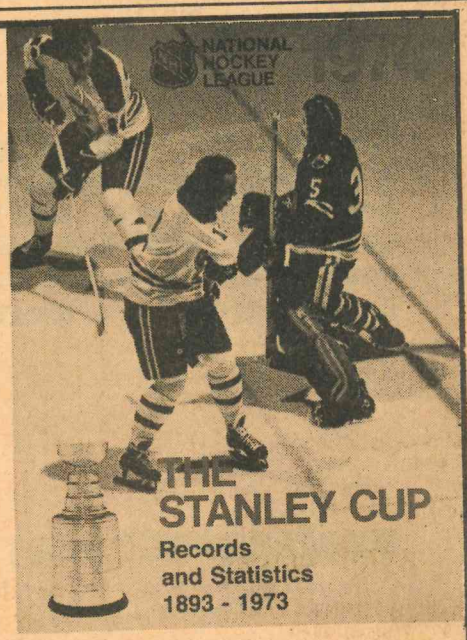

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HOW SWEDE IT IS

The Toronto Maple Leafs sent a scouting expedition to Sweden last year and it came back with two prize catches who've shown that Europeans can make it in the NHL.

BY MARGARET SCOTT

BORJE SALMING

PERHAPS IT takes one Swede to appreciate another.

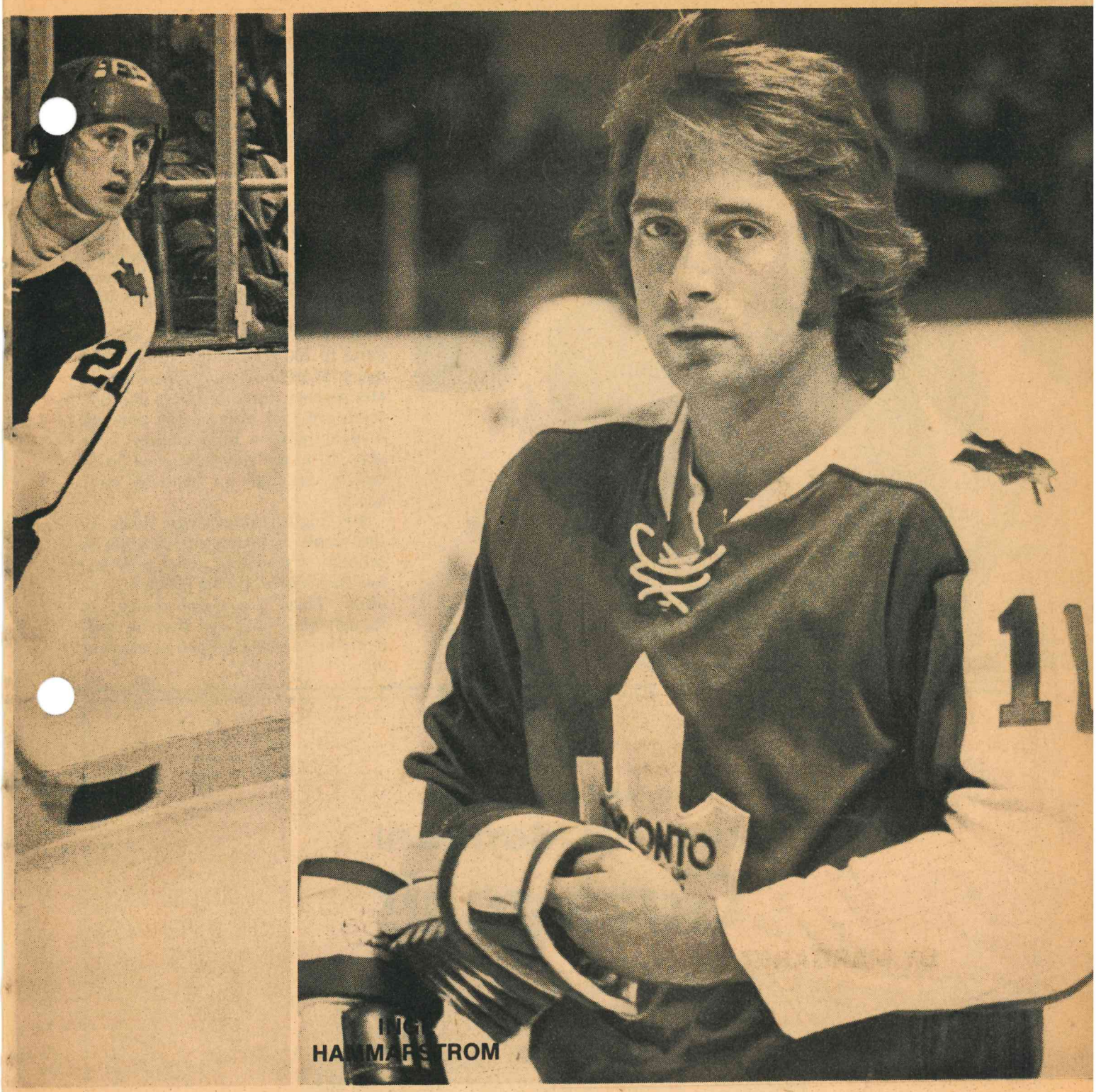
Gary Bergman, whose lineage is Swedish on the paternal side, recently scanned the list of NHL newcomers and said, "I don't believe the Maple Leafs ever expected to get so much mileage out of two brand new players. They are doing a super job."

He was referring to left winger Inge Hammarstrom and defenseman Borje Salming, the large dish of hockey smorgasbord that rival players find impossible to swallow.

Bergman wasn't surprised when Toronto went shopping in Europe for players to augment, enhance and strengthen the Maple Leafs. "It's a matter of supply and demand," he noted. "If North America cannot produce players of suitable calibre the owners will have to start scouting in Europe."

Tim Ecclestone, a new Maple Leaf who can play both wings and also handles himself well at centre, is not a rash man in the praise department. But he uncorked a few statements when he discussed Inge and Borje.

"If Salming isn't the second best defenseman in the NHL, then I don't know who is," he comments. "In my books he rates right behind Bobby Orr. I had heard



INGE HAMMARSTROM

the old story that the Swedish players cannot hack our style of hockey. Then I moved into the Toronto dressing room and I saw these guys.

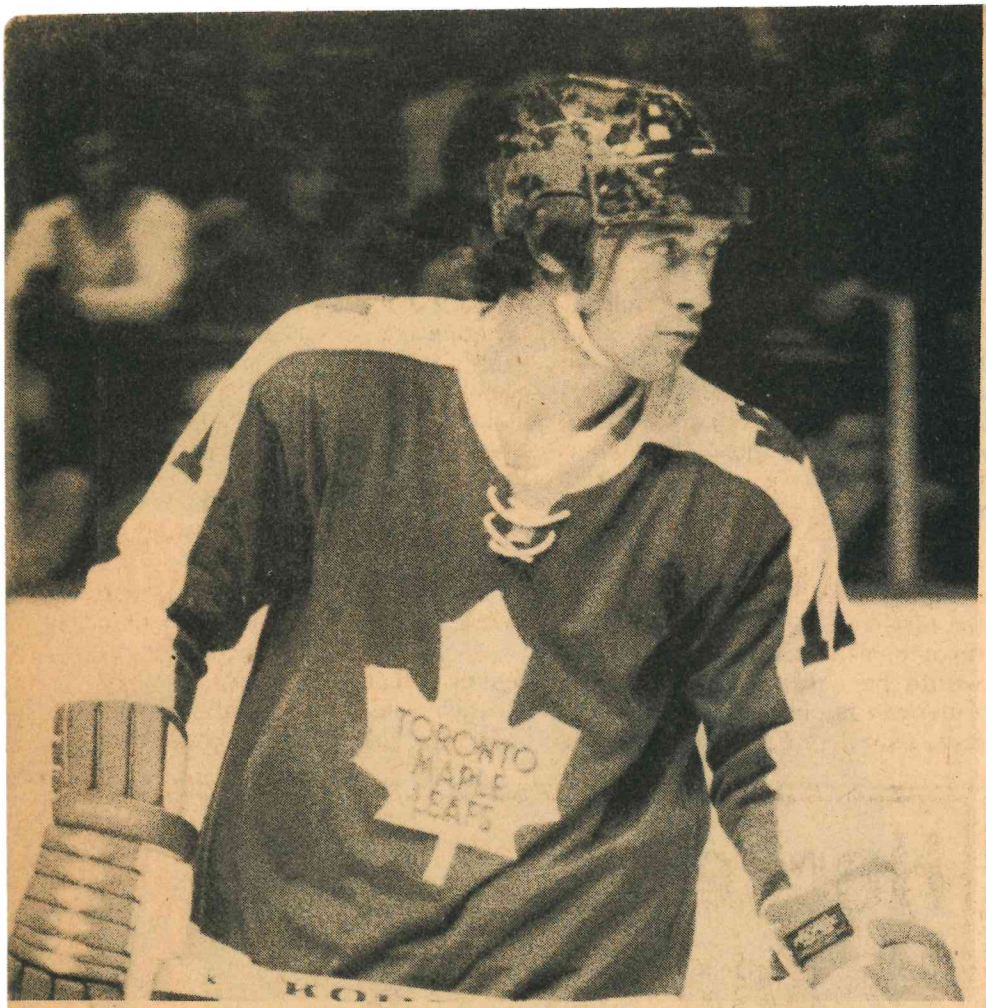
"Borje could play a more offensive style, but he's teamed up with Ian Turnbull who likes to rush. So he stays back and holds the line. But that man can make the most unbelievable plays.

"Inge is something else. I sit beside him in the dressing room and I'm new to the organization and he shows me how to do things. He's really got it all. They may be rookies in our league, but I call them veterans. Whoever scouted those guys knew what they were doing."

It was Gerry McNamara, a former goaltender of mediocre skill, who displayed unquestionable excellence in scouting Salming. Bob Davidson, Toronto's chief scout, rushed to Europe to confirm McNamara's convictions. There he found another hockey jewel, Hammarstrom, who was Borje's teammate with Gavle Brynas of the Swedish league.

Salming and Hammarstrom have been tested on an off the ice. They've been interviewed and scrutinized by the curious, and bodychecked, crosschecked and butt-ended by the league's ruffians.

Both men have soft voices, heavily tinged by an accent that makes one think of Edgar Bergen attempting to play a Swede, and patiently put up with a lot.



Hammarstrom had long thought of leaving Sweden to play in the NHL.

Hammarstrom sighed deeply as he prepared himself for another batch of questions. "Yes, I've heard them before," he smiles. "Over and over again, but I don't mind. That's why I'm here."

He's six-foot in height, weighs close to 200 pounds, and has all the usual Scandinavian characteristics. His parents, three brothers and one sister are back home. "My younger brother plays a little hockey," he says. "I'm not sure how good he is, but he may be on his way to a career."

His English, surprisingly fluent, is the result of mandatory reading in school. "I read, but never practise, and that's been my big problem," he adds. There's a slight pause, as though he's surprised that he suddenly has an urgent need to use it at all.

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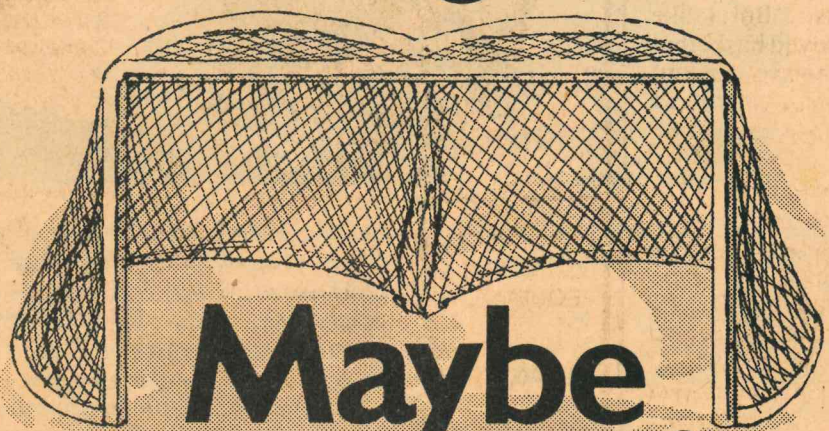

Maybe we can assist.

Salming probably won't win the Calder

The move that brought him to Canada was neither a snap, nor startling decision, "It was in my mind to come," he explains. "I began thinking I might have a chance to make it after I played two games in Stockholm against Team Canada. Later on, when they asked me to join the Maple Leafs, I immediately agreed."

In Sweden, Inge held down a job and played hockey. Hockey was a glorified sideline, but it didn't bring in the groceries. He seems a little amazed that pro hockey is so time consuming. "We play, practise and travel all the time in the NHL. There is no time for additional work."

Hammarstrom knew, as Salming did, that the Swedish reputation for dodging a fight and eluding body checks would haunt him during his NHL baptismal. Ask him if his initiation is over and he shrugs, laughs lightly, and says, "Maybe one phase is, but it's never really behind you. The players never stop in this league. It doesn't matter if it's your first year or your 15th. The style isn't rougher, but the body contact is constant. I've accepted that and I'm getting used to it because I must."

Inge was a late starter in hockey. At the age of 11 he was just beginning to skate, but the skills, the natural moves, must have been there at birth. He was playing in Sweden's top league at 15 and a member of the National Team team two years later.

"I loved hockey the minute I began to play," he explains. "But I like other sports, too. I enjoyed basketball and I especially liked soccer. I might still be playing that game, but when I was 16 I had to select one sport and I chose hockey."

Borje Salming's move to Canada was a popular decision with his family and friends. He frankly admits he came for the money. Thommie Bergman was the trail blazer, the man who officially broke the ice and set the mental wheels in motion.

"At home I worked as a machinist from 9 to 5, practised hockey from 7 to 9, and then played the game," he reveals. "I had to like hockey to do that. But we don't make any money in Sweden. The little we make disappears in taxes."

Salming is 22, four years younger than Hammarstrom, and while he looks almost fragile he's the same height and slightly heavier than his countryman. A first year man, playing against strangers and on smaller ice surfaces than those back home, he has deceptive mobility, great strength and a reach that aborts play after play.

He should win the Calder Memorial Trophy with little difficulty, but the experts say he'll be bypassed in favor of a home-grown product. It would be a black eye to North American tutelage, they predict, to have a Swedish player head the polls.

Borje knows, deep down, that he's ahead of the pack in skill. He knows the intensive European training provided precision-like moves, calm calculating decisions, and put the brakes on his emotions. But the hedges a little when the rookie award is mentioned.

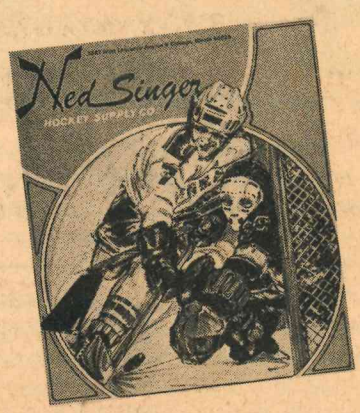
"I hope I win it," he admits. "But I came here to make the Leaf team and anything over that is a bonus."

Salming and Hammarstrom each earn a reported $50,000 a year on a two year contract. It has changed the figures in their bank books, but their lifestyle transition is more gradual.

Borje's girlfriend, Margitta Wen-

Hockey Headquarters

YEAR — ROUND



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In one year, Salming has established himself as a solid defenseman.

din, came over from Sweden to join him, and apparently handles much of the shopping. She insists he has toned down a lot since he entered the NHL. "He used to be very rough compared to other Swedish players. Yes, I go to the games and I find the hockey is much faster here."

The three Swedes agree that Canada is more like home than the United States. When they first arrived they stuck together out of necessity, but they are now making new friends and branching out. They like music, movies and the luxury of NHL travelling. "We travelled a lot back home, but it was hard, because we used trains and buses," they reveal.

Margitta, who has been welcomed by the Maple Leaf wives, pokes around our stores doing comparison shopping. She has difficulty locating the kinds of fish the Swedes eat back home. Canada, she says, has better quality in meat. Our low sausage consumption seems to surprise her. It's a more popular item back home.

Hammarstrom, who is a frequent dinner guest, refuses to eat steak at the traditional hour on a game day. "I talked to a few doctors and they advised me not to do that," he explains. "When I'm at home I do as I please. On the road I eat with the club."

Neither man is especially tense nor highly strung. Borje has the reputation of being very calm and leaving the game at the rink. Inge is not a worrier, but they say he puts a lot of thought into past games.

Each player has rented an apartment for the season and acquired Camaro cars. Hammarstrom had a little deal in mind when he bought his car. He intended taking it home in the off season and peddling it to eager buyers for about $15,000 which is a handsome profit. Sweden's fuel shortage, plus the fact that he must wait a year before making the transaction, changed his plans. Salming, uncertain about his immediate future when he joined the Maple Leafs, obtained his car on a lease, but insists he'll buy one next winter.

The two men, big, polite and good looking, have shed the "chicken Swede" image that followed them into the NHL Salming can carry the puck, shoot it as well as anyone in the league, and is deadly around the net. Hammarstrom, if Ecclestone is accurate in his assessment, could be the Bobby Orr of the Maple Leaf defense corps.

Therefore, the $100,000 the Leafs presumably paid to pry the two out of Sweden, can only be termed chicken feed★

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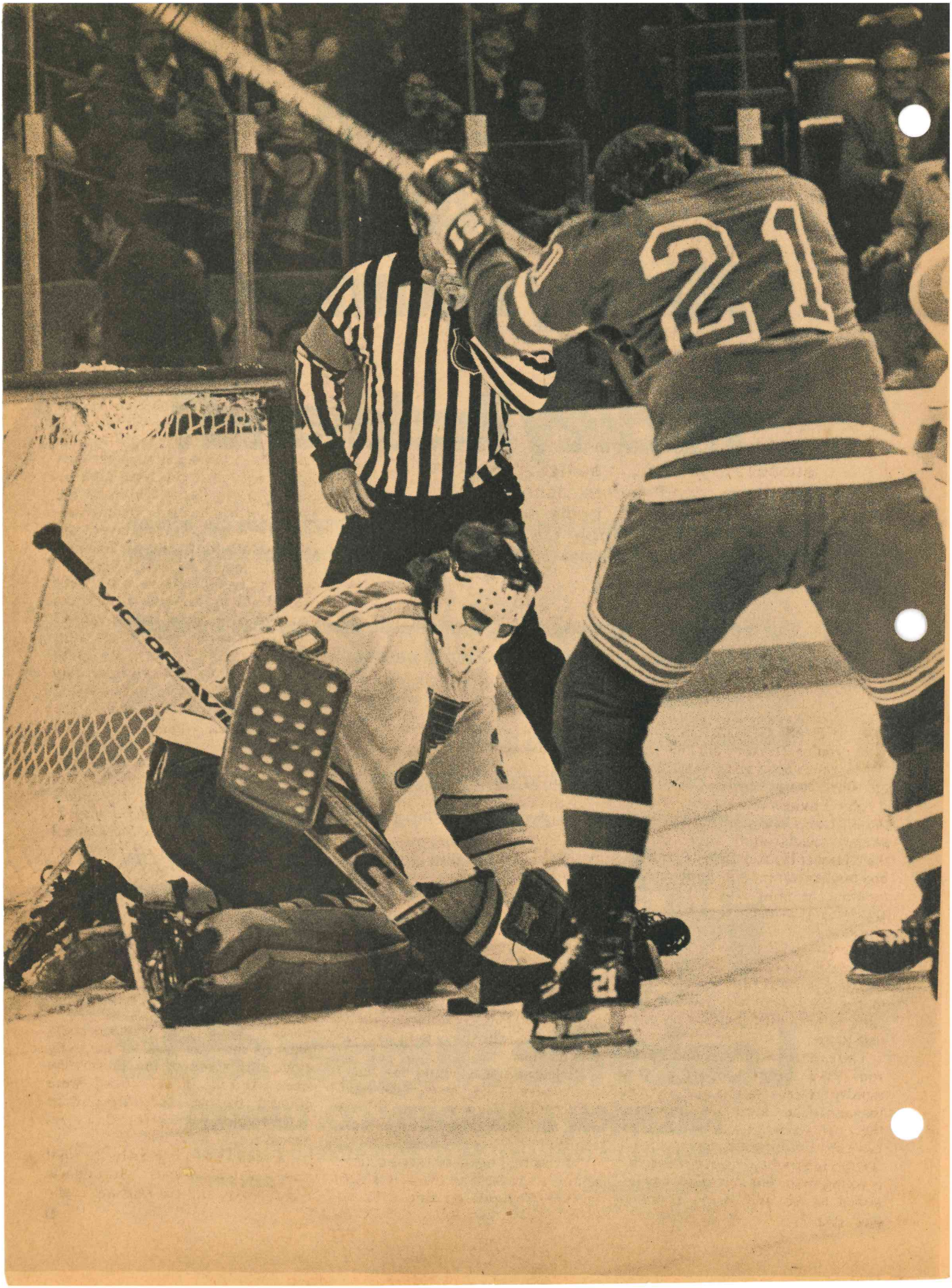

21
VICTORIAVILLE
VIC

A STAR ON THE RISE

Jumping directly from junior hockey to success in the NHL is something that has not been done before John Davidson came along. The St. Louis netminder is getting better, too.

BY DONALD BERNS

LIFE IS GLORIOUS when you're 21 years old, on your way to becoming a wealthy man and about to be married.

John Davidson, rookie goalie of the St. Louis Blues, is just 21. He is already spectacularly successful in the National Hockey League, and his pro hockey career will undoubtedly continue to bring him riches. And Davidson is scheduled to be a June groom.

Therefore, life is glorious for John Davidson. No goalie has ever successfully jumped from a junior team to the NHL, but Davidson apparently is becoming the first to make that jump.

The events swirling around Davidson have been happening very rapidly. A year ago he was minding the nets of the Calgary Centennials in the Western Canada Hockey League. Entering the world of pro hockey is a frightening experience for a young man, but Davidson has adjusted to his new world about as rapidly as is possible. Unless there is an unusual and cruel twist of fate, Davidson faces nothing but bright days ahead.

"I'm trying to keep my mind straight," says Davidson, and the remark gives a glimpse of the maturity that has helped the young athlete make the transition from a boy's game to a man's business.

Davidson dealt with the pressure of fame before he began drawing those big paychecks from the Blues. As a junior, he was generally regarded as the best goalie to come along since Ken Dryden. In Calgary, a city of 500,000, the Centennials had the only game in town, and Davidson was its star.

"I learned at a young age that I can't have a big head," he said. "Everything's going good for me now, but I also know that things can change.

"I was told in junior that I had the ability to make the NHL if I kept working," Davidson said. "Scotty Munro, my coach, is an honest man and he's very frank in telling guys whether they should continue in hockey."

The pro scouts were also noticing Davidson's ability, and the Blues made a decision somewhere along the line to get Davidson at any cost. They had to juggle the order of picks in the first round of the draft but they succeeded.

The Blues originally were scheduled to draft eighth, but that choice would have followed the Boston Bruins, who had lost Jacques Plante and Eddie Johnston and were in desperate need of goaltending talent. So, the Blues arranged a complicated three-way maneuver with Atlanta and Montreal. The Canadiens had held the second pick in the first round, and the Flames the fifth.

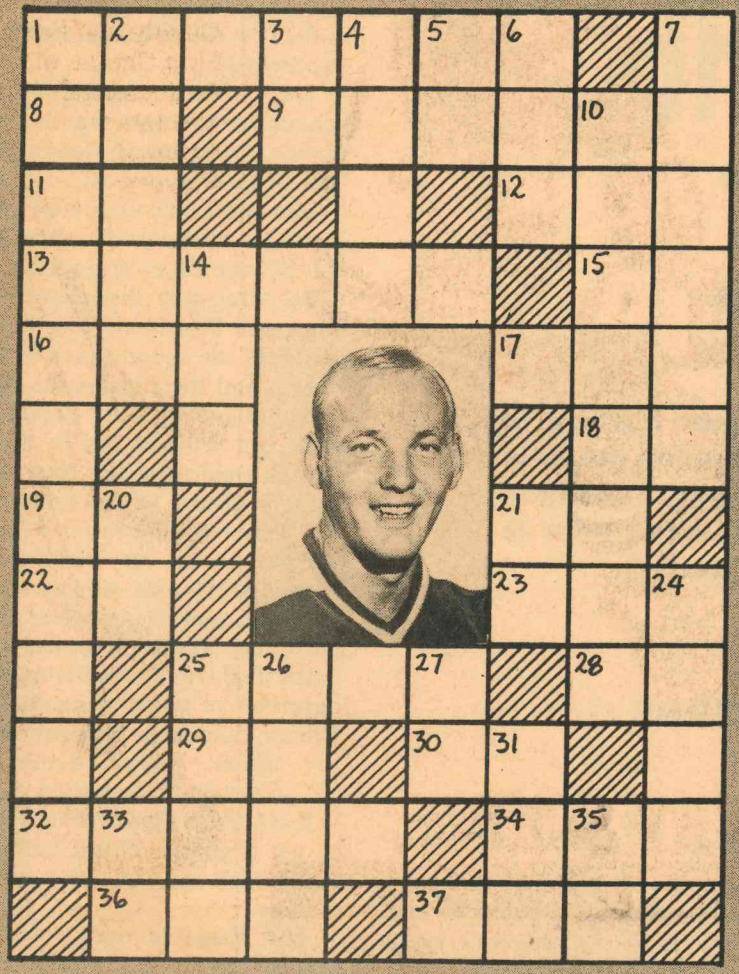
Nobody ever fully explained the deal, but Atlanta got to pick Tom Lysiak right after the New York Islanders chose Denis Potvin as the No. 1 choice. Then after Dennis Ververgaert went to Vancouver and Lanny McDonald went to Toronto, the Blues took Davidson as the No. 5 pick. Apparently Montreal's benefit in the deal was to see the rival Bruins deprived of a much needed goalie. Bruins, choosing immediately after the Blues, picked center Andre Savard, then were forced to give up veteran Fred Stanfield to Minnesota to get a goalie, Gilles Gilbert. The Habs got the eighth pick, Bob Gainey.

The Blues learned a little more about Davidson's intelligence and character shortly after the team's management announced his name in the Grand Ballroom of the Mount Royal Hotel in Montreal. Davidson was brought to the room to meet the team's president, Sid Salomon III, and other hockey officials. The drafting of junior players was continuing in the room as Davidson chatted with Blues' officials, and the young player was asked to comment on some of the players he had faced in the WCHL. Davidson pulled a chair up to the Blues' table and immediately plunged into the task of carefully evaluating some of the players he knew. And the Blues' officials were grateful for the help from their newest employee, who had not yet signed a contract.

"Luckily I was drafted by the right team," Davidson says. "St. Louis is a great city, and the fans are really

HOCKEY CROSSWORD

By John Arnold



ACROSS

1—Former Islanders coach.
8—Either.
9—Former NHL defenseman.
11—Number of goals scored by Phil Esposito last year. (Rom. Num).
12—Statisticians do this.
13—First name of a Leaf forward.
15—A Ranger forward. (Init)
16—A former Vancouver defenseman.
17—Nickname of former Montreal coach Blake.
18—23rd and 1st letters of the alphabet.
19—Denotes scoreless tie.
21—Initials of one of the Penguins.
22—One of the Leafs. (Init)
23—Winter sport.
25—Selby answers to this.
28—Number worn by Orr. (Rom. Num.)
29—An NHL coach. (Init)
30—Toronto right winger. (Init)
32—An NHL general manager.
34—One of the Leafs answers to this.
36—Ken Hodge was born here. (abbr.)
37—First name of Cougars playing coach.

DOWN

1—Pictured player.
2—Former Bruin Tessier answers to this.
3—One of the Islanders. (Init.)
4—One of the Hawks answers to this.
5—Initials of one of the North Stars.
6—Estimated Time of Arrival. (abbr.)
7—Cleveland Crusaders forward.
10—One of the Los Angeles Sharks.
14—A cereal plant.
20—An NHL captain. (init).
21—Same as 21 across.
24—Chicago general manager.
25—Former Leaf defenseman.
26—1 across once played for this team.
27—Same as 5 down.
31—Period of time.
33—15th and 5th letters of the alphabet.
35—Initials of 2 down.

Solution on page 66

good. When we lost four straight this year, and they cheered us at the beginning of the next game — well, you appreciate things like that."

Even though Davidson has made the psychological adjustment to the NHL, he wasn't immune to the rude shock in the difference in levels of play.

"The NHL is a lot harder on your body and much more of a strain then junior hockey," he said. "The pros shoot a lot harder and a lot quicker and a lot more accurately. In junior I could play a poor game and win, but not now. I have to be mentally prepared for every game."

One of the overwhelming tasks of a rookie goalie is learning the shooters. When he enters the league, virtually every player is a stranger. But Davidson is quickly compiling a book on NHL shooters. He rates Detroit's Mickey Redmond, Vancouver's Bobby Schmautz and Boston's Phil Esposito as having some of the toughest shots in the league.

"Orland Kurtenbach is a smart shooter," Davidson adds. "He uses guys' ankles as screens.

"All of the New York Rangers are good shots," he says, "Gilles Marotte and Brad Park have good shots, and Larry Sacharuk has one of the hardest shots in the league."

Davidson has been alternating this season with Wayne Stephenson, although the older goalie has been playing about one game for every two for Davidson.

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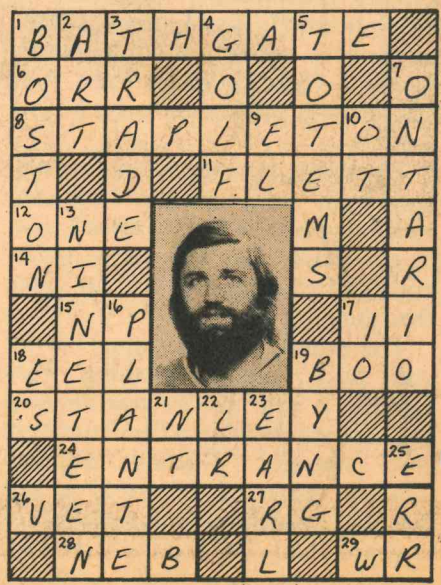

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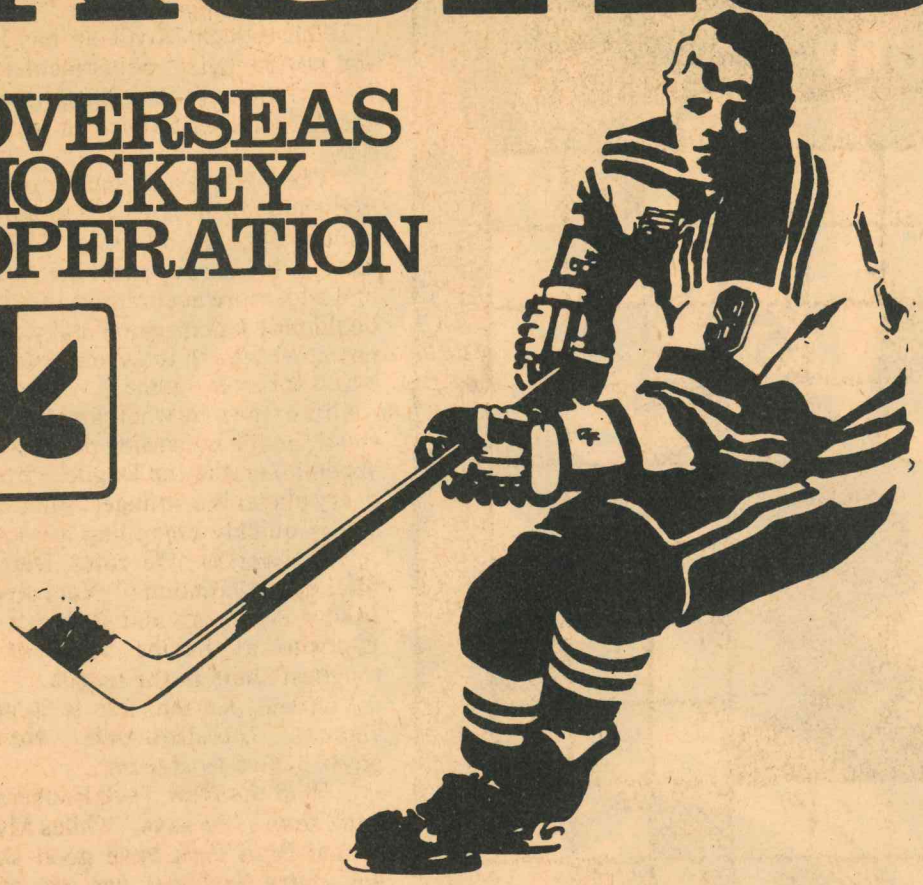

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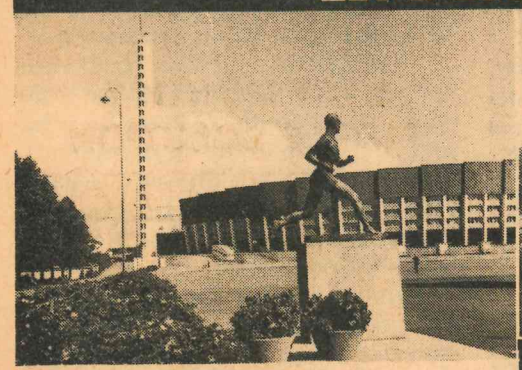

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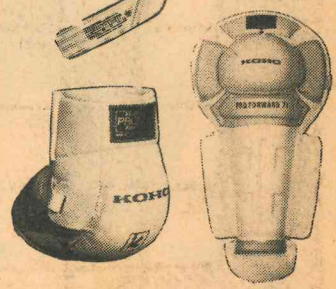

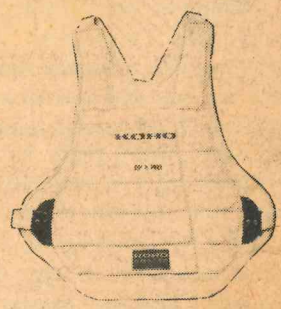

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Davidson prepares for a shot from Boston's Bobby Orr (4) while keeping an eye on Phil Esposito.

"Steph as been the biggest help to me," said Davidson. "He doesn't treat me like a rookie fighting for his job. He sits down with me and goes over each opposing team and gives me tips about their best shooters. Without him I never could have done what I've already done."

The Ottawa-born Davidson shares an apartment in St. Louis with French-Canadian Pierre Plante and says "we got along well."

"The French people love hockey," says Davidson, "and they're very competitive. So am I."

In the two-bedroom apartment Plante has the larger bedroom, and Davidson the smaller.

"I'm the rookie; he's the veteran," says Davidson, who has never slipped into lofty pride because of his first-round selection and big bonus.

Both Davison and Plante will be looking for new living quarters in St. Louis next season because both will take brides in off-season marriages.

Davidson will marry Diana Saar, who now manages the fashion department of a Calgary department store. He has known her two years.

"We met while she was an usherette at the Corral, where our team played hockey in Calgary," Davidson said. "Our families are very close now."

Davidson's family journeyed from Calgary to Vancouver to watch John play against the Canucks this season. Davidson stopped 36 shots and beat the Canucks 3-1.

"When I saw my Dad after the game he told me that he thought I needed a haircut and that I ought to get rid of my mustache," said the 6-foot-3 Davidson. "I could tell Dad was happy for me, but he talked about my hair even before he said, 'Nice game'."

Davidson's mother died last summer before her son reported to his first big league training camp.

"The fact that she never got to see me play in the NHL makes me even more determined to make it," he said. "I know how important my hockey was to her. She used to go to all my junior games and really looked forward to those three nights a week when I'd be playing?."

Munro, Davidson's junior coach who also coached goalies Glenn Hall and Emile Francis as juniors, taught Davidson a fierce spirit of competition.

Davidson said, "He once told me, 'Don't ever be satisfied with just making the team. Don't be satisfied until you're the best'."

"Iwant to be the best," Davidson said. " I don't like going halfway.

"I hope next year is as good as this one has been," he said. "Some people get lazy, but you have to have more desire than that. I think I can keep going "★

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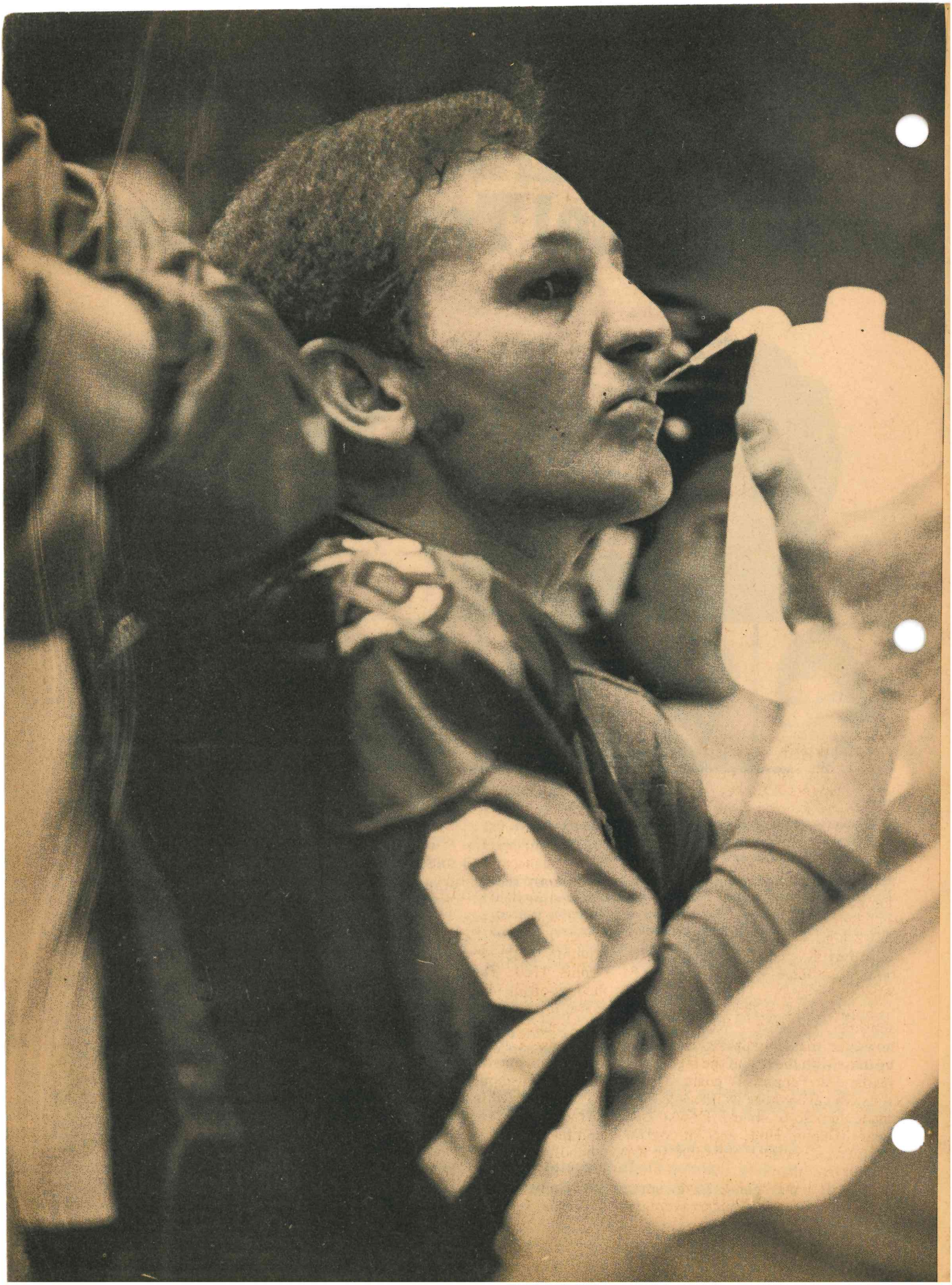

Jim Pappin don't get no respect

He's booed by the fans for his bad plays, but seldom hears cheers for his good ones. Fans just don't appreciate Pappin's talents

BY MIKE DENNIS

WHEN ASKED to name the top two or three right-wingers in hockey today, most people are bound to mention Yvan Cournoyer, Mickey Redmond, Rod Gilbert, or maybe Ken Hodge.

But nobody, at least outside of the Chicago area, will offer the name Jim Pappin as a leading scorer. And even in Chicago, it's like pulling teeth to get a kind word about Mr. Pappin. Oh, they say, you mean the big guy who looks like a 747 trying to take off without wings.

A quick look at the NHL's '72-73 scoring statistics will reveal, however, that Jim Pappin ranks right up there with the rest of the biggies. It reads: Jim Pappin, 41 goals, 51 assists. In case you're wondering, that made him tops on the Hawks last year, (Dennis Hull, and Pit Martin each had 90 points), and tenth in the league overall.

It must have been a fluke, some people said. But Pappin has averaged close to 30 goals a season for the past five years, any not many people ever noticed that either.

Indeed, it must be a strange feeling for Pappin only to be recognized when he misses a back-checking assignment or can't handle a pass.

The only recognition the Hawks' number one right-winger gets from the fans is when the boo-birds start hollering. This puts Pappin in a similar situation to the one facing linemate Dennis Hull. Hull played in the shadow of his illustrious brother for years. It was perfectly alright for the charismatic Bobby not to hustle back on defense, but if quiet Dennis let the opposition out of his sight he was sure to hear about it for weeks.

Pappin has this to say about his detractors. "They don't bother me. I hear them, of course, but there's only a handful of people at each game who really know what's going on."

In spite of the fact that the fans don't pay too much attention to Mr. Pappin, the same doesn't hold true of coach Billy Reay or the opposition.

Said Reay, "They don't appreciate what Jimmy's doing out there. He's a tall guy, and he doesn't waste any motion. So, sometimes I think people confuse his style with not working hard."

Somewhat like Frank Mahovlich, though nowhere near as graceful, Pappin's extra-long strides give him the appearance of simply cruising along, when really he is deceptively faster than he looks.

Aside from his unusual skating style, Pappin has been able to put exceptional reflexes, and a well-developed sense of anticipation together to make him an essential cog in the league's second highest scoring unit last year.

Through the '72-73 campaign, Martin, Pappin and Hull combined to form the MPH line which accounted for 109 goals. Only Boston's big line of Esposito, Hodge, and Cashman

Pappin has averaged allmost 30 goals a year over the last five seasons.

were able to generate more goals. New York's famed GAG line was only able to come up with 93 goals during last season.

Last year's fine performance was also the reason that Pappin was selected for the 1973 All Star game. Pappin had made one other appearance in the contest, but that came when he was a member of the Toronto Maple Leafs, before the days of the East-West format now employed.

Born 34 years ago, in Sudbury, Ontario, Pappin first played for the Toronto Marlboros in the Ontario Hockey Association.

He played parts of two seasons with the Sudbury Wolves of the Eastern Professional Hockey League, before moving up to Rochester to finish the '60-61 season.

For the next two years he played full-time at Rochester, and turned in 28 and 34-goal seasons respectively.

After picking up 16 points in 16 games for Rochester in the '63-64 season, he was moved up to Toronto for the rest of the year. He produced 11 goals for the big club, but was held scoreless in the playoffs.

For the next three years, Pappin was like a yo-yo, going back and forth between the AHL and the NHL. Jim spent parts of each season with each club, Rochester and Toronto, but was not an effective enough back checker to stick with Punch Imlach's team.

After playing six games with Rochester at the beginning of the '66-67 season he came up to Toronto for the rest of the season, scoring 21 goals in 64 regular season contests, and leading the Leafs in the playoffs with 15 total points, seven of them goals.

Things looked good for the determined winger, as he opened the following season at Maple Leaf Gardens, and seemed sure to stick with the big club. He did, at least until February, when after compiling 28 points for the Leafs he was told that he was going to be shipped back to Rochester.

This time, Pappin balked at the orders for a change of scenery, and bolted straight from the Toronto dressing room, to a skiing expedition in Northern Canada.

Unhappily, he gathered his pride and desire to be a hockey player, and reported to the AHL club.

Finally, Jim Pappin got the break he was looking for. Toronto decided to trade him for Pierre Pilote, a defenseman.

Although the trade might not have seemed like a major one at the time, today it is an exceedingly bright spot in the eyes of the Chicago management, who were at the same time about to commence one of the poorest trades in NHL history, their famous blunder which saw the Black Hawks send Phil Esposito, Ken Hodge and Fred Stanfield off to Boston for Gil Marotte, Pit Martin and goaltender Jack Norris.

One of the key figures in obtaining Pappin was Hawks' coach Billy Reay. As a former coach of the Sault Ste. Marie team in the Eastern P League in the early 60's, Reay had quite a glimpse at Pappin, who played for Sudbury.

According to Reay, "When you

see a kid like that, you don't forget him — no matter who he's playing for. You just take his name and file it away somewhere. Then if he ever becomes available, you grab him."

Happy in the grasp of the Chicago mentor, Pappin was able to say goodbye to the minors ever since.

His acquisition paid almost immediate dividends to the delighted Black Hawks. In '68-69, Pappin appeared in 75 games for the Chicago team, and broke into prominence with 30 goals and 70 points. Prominence, that is in terms of his team and management, but not in the eyes of the fans, whose attention was usually focused on a blond left-winger who happened to wear number 9.

Then, began a three-year siege of injuries that were to rob Pappin of the chance to increase his fame, or add to his goal-scoring prowess.

In the first two years of his ill-fortune, Pappin fought numerous injuries to miss over 20 games, yet he still managed to pick up 50 goals.

However, his toughest battle had not surfaced thus far. This occurred in the middle of summer at his Sudbury home.

It seems that Pappin was sipping a soft drink, when suddenly "the soda just dribbled out of the corner of my mouth. I looked in the mirror and the whole side of my face was sagging."

Pappin soon found out that he was a victim of Bell's Palsy, a condition which reduces certain muscular control.

"For nearly four months I had no movement in the left side of my face," Pappin recalls. "The only good thing about it was that I didn't have to go to training camp. I sat home and watched a lot of baseball games."

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With the proper medical treatment, Pappin was able to finally defeat his adversary. He rounded into shape and tried to salvage what he could from the year.

Soon, it was the NHL goaltenders who wanted someone to salvage them. Pappin was able to roar back with 32 goals for the abbreviated season, including 10 in the playoffs.

Those '70-71 playoffs also helped to label Pappin as the clutch player that he is considered today. Probably his most memorable goal occurred in the post-season games of 1971, when Jim fired home the winning goal to hand the Hawks a 2-1 overtime victory in the first game of the finals.

Pappin's only regret was that the Hawks weren't able to heat Montreal in that final series.

It was back to the grindstone for the Hawks and Pappin in the '71-72 season. Jim was able to approach 30 goals once more, but fell just a little short with 27. The Hawks, as a team fell short, too, and were eliminated in the playoffs by the Rangers.

If there were any doubts that Pappin was to be a big star with Chicago, they were dispelled by the fine season that Pappin was able to enjoy in the '72-73 campaign.

Pappin was able to score in the big games, the unimportant games, almost all the games as he led Chicago to the West Division title. Naturally, he had a lot of help from linemates Hull and Martin, but Pappin's clutch contributions helped to keep the Hawks flying high.

This season the Black Hawks have had to contend with the stiff challenge of the Philadelphia Flyers. The team, as a whole got off to a slow start, surged to climb within hailing distance of the Flyers, but then fell back to second place.

One of the major factors in the story of the '73-74 Hawks, has been their periodic lack of scoring punch. Even the famed MPH line has twice been split up this season.

"It had to happen," explained Pit Martin. "A lot of bad goals were being scored against us. Some nights we were pressing a little, trying to make the perfect play, and as a result maybe passing too much."

Pappin, was also searching desparately for an answer. Early this season he said, "I've been getting the chances, but just haven't been able to put it in. You can't blame the coach for changing things around. He had to do something."

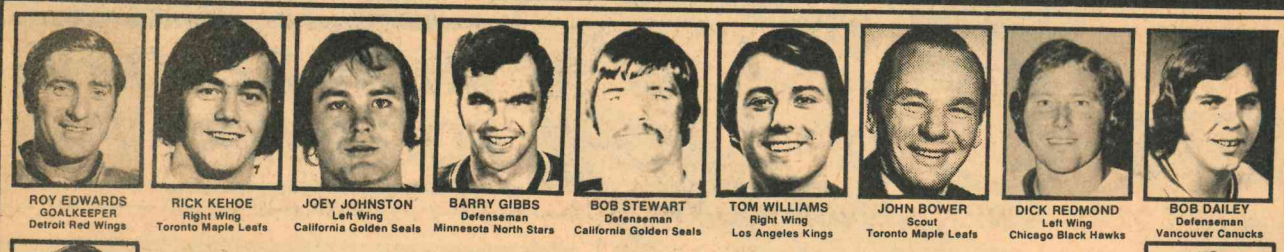
The Hawks began rolling, and then the time came for Billy Reay to put the big line back together. Chicago steadily crept up on the Flyers , but then Dennis Hull pulled a groin muscle to once more break up the Hawks' high-powered unit.

So, coach Reay inserted Darcy Rota, the Western Canada whiz-kid and number one selection by Chicago in the amateur draft.

Rota quickly responded, and while Hull gingerly put himself back into playable condition, scored five goals in one week.

Although Pappin's point total is down slightly, the biggest fall has been in his goal scoring total. With the season almost completed, the big bird had swooped in only 27 goals.

Pappin hopes to get back into the high-scoring flights pattern of last year, and then maybe, if he scores 30 goals or so, and maybe, if he leads the Hawks again into the Stanley Cup finals, and maybe, if he scores the clutch goal in the seventh game to hand Chicago the Cup, well maybe some of the hockey fans will recognize Pappin for the fine player that he has proven to be ★



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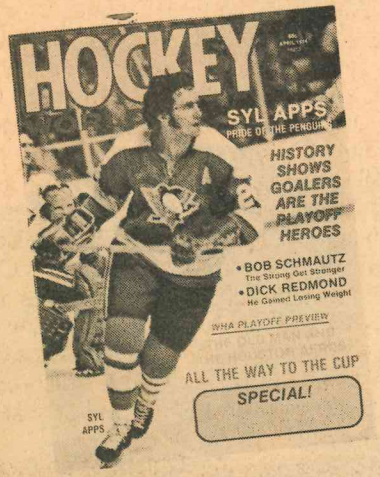

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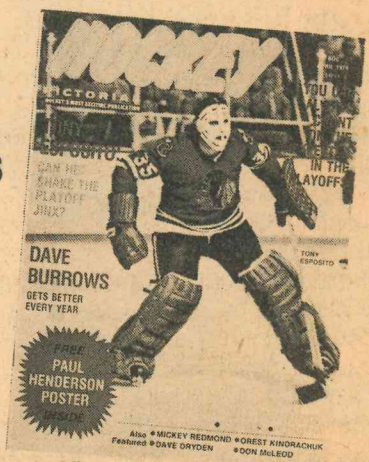

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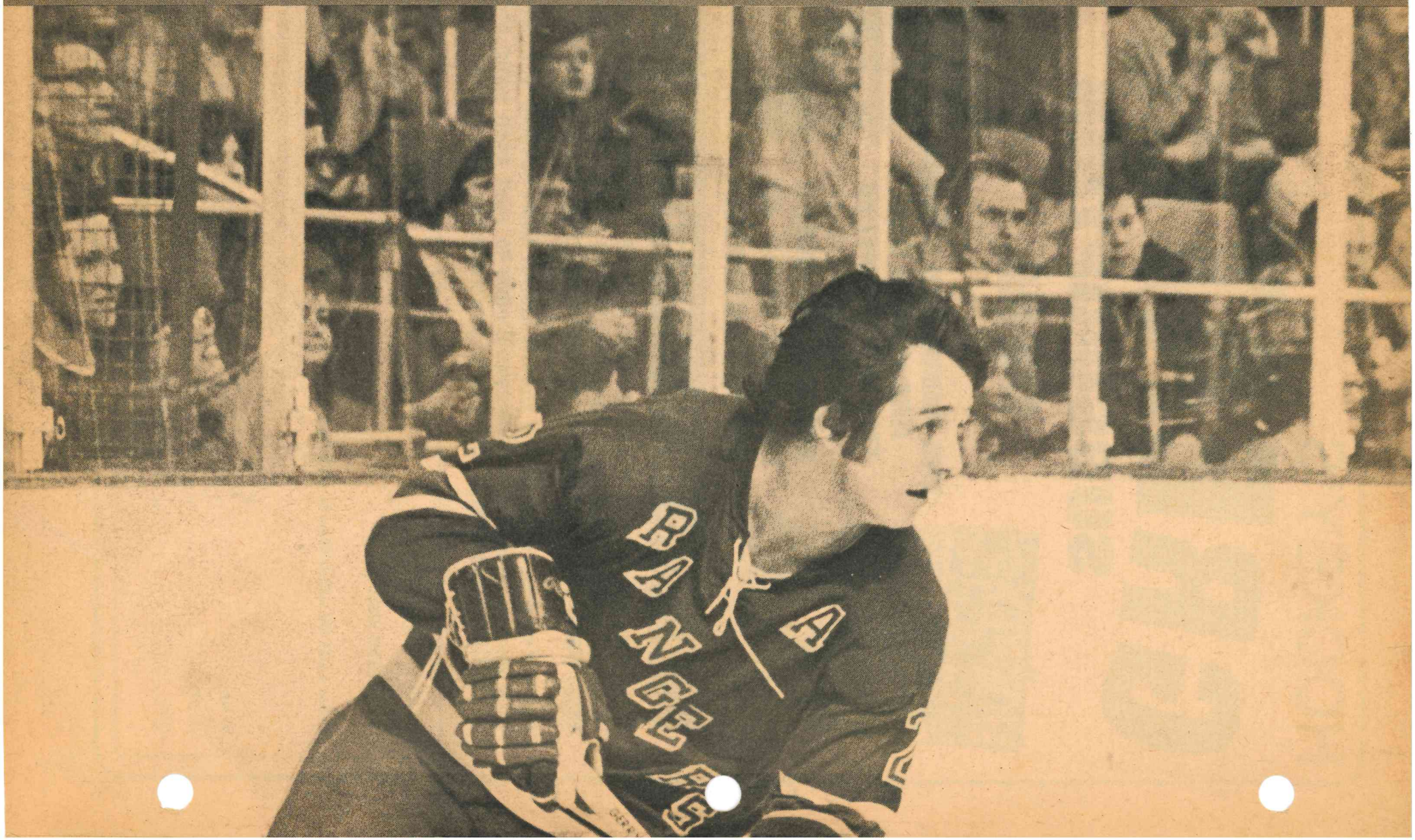

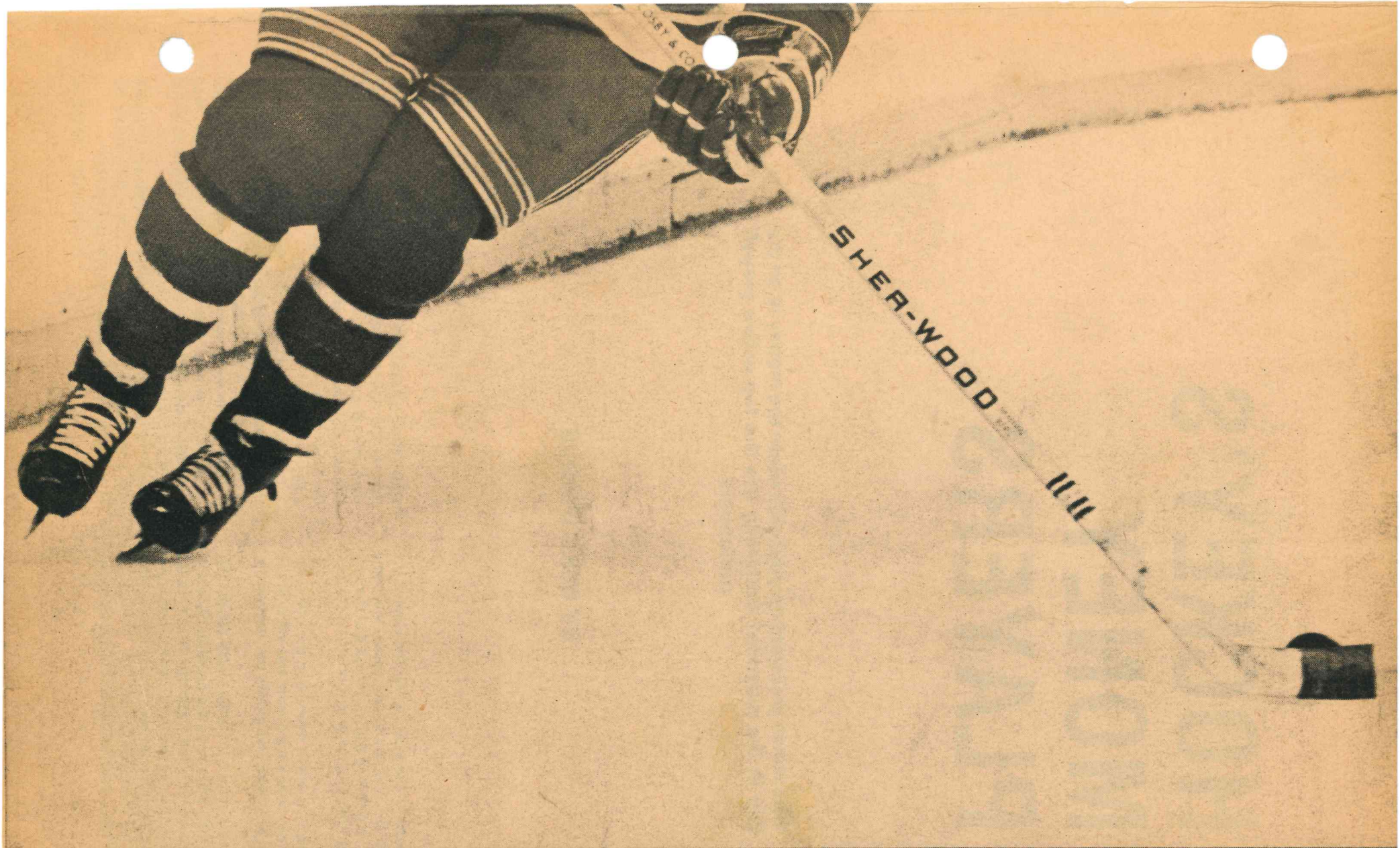

BRAD PARK...

HOCKEY PICTORIAL
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ROBERT SHAVER

HOCKEY'S MONEY PLAYERS

Who would you want on your side when the money is on the line in the playoffs? Following are the top active playoff performers.

BY MIKE DENNIS

IT'S THAT time of the year, when the cash is on the table, and the champions are separated from the also-rans. A glitter of gold is revealed at the end of the long road as the valiant warriors strive for superiority.

In the middle ages, it might have been the quest for the Holy Grail, or the honor of a queen, but today in the NHL it's the almighty buck that prods our heroes onward.

Surprisingly, and contrary to what many people believe, the players who emerge as the deciding factor in the Stanley Cup are usually just capping off a splendid season. In other words, usually they can't simply turn off and on their goal-scoring prowess just in time for the playoffs, and the big money involved.

Of course there have been notable exceptions in recent years: witness the remarkable debut of Ken Dryden, or the rejuvenation of Henri Richard, who muddled through an eight-goal regular season, only to catch fire and play like a 20-year-old youth when the pride of the Canadiens surged new strength back into his tired legs.

But for the most part, the people who star in the post-season are the same ones who have led their team throughout the regular season up to that playoff berth.

With that in mind, we have attempted to select some of the best "money" players in pro hockey today. Men who have summoned a rare reserve to outstrip the stubborn challenges of their opponents.

For the sake of argument, only those players who are still active today will be named. Thus the Active All Star Playoff Team looks something like this:

FIRST TEAM

J.C. TREMBLAY
defense

GERRY CHEEVERS
goal

BOBBY ORR
defense

BOBBY HULL
left wing

PHIL ESPOSITO
center

GORDIE HOWE
right wing

SECOND TEAM

GUY LAPOINTE
defense

KEN DRYDEN
goal

PAT STAPLETON
defense

FRANK MAHOVLICH
left wing

HENRI RICHARD
center

YVAN COURNOYER
right wing

FIRST TEAM

Left Wing — BOBBY HULL: Despite being on only one Cup winner Hull has managed more than a point a game during his stint with the Hawks. Three times Hull led the playoffs with the most goals, including two hat tricks.

Center — PHIL ESPOSITO: Although he's not the highest-scoring center in playoff history, he's destined to be in the near future. Has had 91 points in 10 playoff series, including three hat tricks. He's led the playoffs in goals and scoring in three separate playoffs. Espo's 27-point performance in '70 playoffs tied a record.

Right Wing—GORDIE HOWE: Who else but the big fella, Gordie Howe? He's number two in the all-time scoring to Jean Beliveau with a total of 158 points in 19 seasons. Howe's been the leading scorer on two occasions. He scored the Cup clinching goal in 1955, the last time Detroit won the Cup.

Defense—BOBBY ORR: His spirited play changed the Bruins from perrenial also-rans into Stanley Cup champs. In just six playoff seasons, Orr is nearly tied with Doug Harvey, who played 15 times in the post-season encounters. Orr set the assist and points for a defenseman records in the 1972 playoffs. Twice he's won the Conn Smythe Trophy as the outstanding player in the Stanley Cup showdowns, and has scored the winning goal in Boston's two latest triumphs.

Defense—J.C. TREMBLAY: Somewhat of a surprise, but not if you had watched the Canadiens during the last decade or so. Tremblay played for five Cup winners and steadily contributed important points to esblish himself as a top money player. Always the entertainer who often took chances, Tremblay picked up 65 points for the Habs in 11 seasons.

Goalie—GERRY CHEEVERS: A very difficult decision here because of the number of heroic goaltending feats in recent years. Cheevers carried a 2.51 goals-against average in 40 playoff appearances. In 1970 he won 10 straight games to pace Boston to their Stanley Cup, including three shutouts. In 1972 he added two more shutous, among them a 3-0 final game victory.

SECOND TEAM

Left Wing—FRANK MAHOVLICH: Shares single post-season scoring mark with Esposito. It was Mahovlich, who gave the Canadiens the lift that led to the dramatic 1971 upset of the Boston Bruins. The Big M has put in 50 goals in the playoffs and added 65 assists for 115 points in 13 years.

Center—HENRI RICHARD: Has had two final game winning goals among his 46 playoff markers. Also totaled 122 points to rank sixth, just four points behind brother Maurice. Now entering his 17 th playoff season, Richard always saves his best for the time when the most is at stake.

Right Wing—YVAN COURNOYER: Last year's winner of the Conn Smythe Trophy, Cournoyer scored 15 goals in 17 games to set the record. Although he's only appeared in eight seasons of playoff activity, Cournoyer has produced 89 points to rank 14th on the all-time scoring list. One of hockey's fastest and most exciting players.

Defense—GUY LAPOINTE: Steady, gutsy playoff performer, who has emerged as the leader of the Canadiens defense corp. Has played whatever role has been thrust upon him, whether it was goal-scorer (six in 1973) or policeman (34 minutes in 1971) or defensive defenseman. An excellent rusher, Lapointe's head-up play enables him to recover in a hurry.

Defense—PAT STAPLETON: Whitey Stapleton breaks the Canadiens' second team sweep due to his consistent performances as Chicago's rushing defenseman. Stapleton led the 1973 playoffs with 15 assists, and twice garnered 17 points during the playoffs. Usually paired with Bill White, Stapleton handled the stickhandling and offensive chores of the Hawks' top backline.

Goalie—KEN DRYDEN: Has to be considered one of the all-time clutch performers in playoff history. After winning the Conn Smythe Trophy in 1971, many people expected to see Dryden flop when he faced a full season of NHL pucks. Instead he won the Calder Trophy as rookie of the year. Though Canadiens were defeated in 1972 playoffs, Dryden responded with a 2.83 goals-allowed average, his best in the playoffs. His level-headed goaling helped Habs to the 1973 Stanley Cup.

THIRD TEAM

Left Wing—JOHN BUCYK: Long-time Boston plugger, Bucyk has survived 18 NHL seasons to appear in 10 playoffs. Has scored 75 points, including 11 goals in Boston's 1970 Cup triumph. Bucyk's best playoff performance occurred in 1972, at the age of 36, when he gathered 20 points in the 15-game post-season affair.

Center—STAN MIKITA: Another of the NHL's crafty centers, Mikita was just as responsible for the success of the Black Hawks as Bobby Hull. In 13 playoff years, Mikita has scored 128 points to place him fourth on the all-time scoring list. His 21 points in the 1962 playoffs led all scorers. Last year he picked up seven goals and 13 assists to lead Chicago to the finals.

All-Time Playoff Scorers

	Years	GP	G	A	Pts
Jean Beliveau, Mtl	17	162	79	97	176
x Gordie Howe, Detroit	19	154	67	91	158
x*Bobby Hull, Chi-Winn	14	130	71	83	154
+ Stan Mikita, Chicago	13	126	48	80	128
Maurice Richard, Mtl	15	133	82	44	126
+ Henri Richard, Mtl.	16	168	46	76	122
Bernie Geoffrion, Mtl-NY	16	131	58	59	117
+ F. Mahovlich, Tor-Det-Mtl	13	131	50	65	115
Dickie Moore, Mtl-Tor-St.L.	14	135	46	64	110
Alex Delvecchio, Det	14	121	35	69	104
Ted Lindsay, Det-Chi	16	133	47	49	96
Red Kelly, Det-Tor.	19	164	33	59	92
+ Phil Esposito, Chi.-Bos.	10	81	37	54	91
+ Yvan Cournoyer, Mtl	8	102	44	45	89
+ Norm Ullman, Det-Tor.	12	95	29	52	81
Dick Duff, Tor-Mtl	11	114	30	49	79
+ John Bucyk, Det-Bos.	10	88	30	45	75
+ Bobby Rousseau, Mtl-Minn-NY	11	116	26	49	75
Doug Harvey, Mtl-NY-St.L.	15	137	8	64	72
+ Bobby Orr, Boston	6	55	21	47	68
x J.C. Tremblay, Mtl	11	108	14	51	65
Elmer Lach, Montreal	11	76	19	45	64

x now in WHA
* one WHA playoff year
\+ still active

Right Wing—NORM ULLMAN: No, Ullman hasn't been disguised as a right winger, but he certainly deserves mention somewhere. He's just behind Cournoyer in points, and is one of three men with three playoff hat tricks. With Detroit, Ullman twice was the leading scorer of the playoffs, with 16 points in 1963, and 15 in 1966.

Defense—BRAD PARK: Park has had the misfortune to be a member of the New York Rangers, the biggest playoff chokers in the history of the NHL. But Park has still been performing at a very high level. In five playoff seasons, Park has contributed 27 points for the Rangers. His bruising hipchecks have taken the steam out of many an opponent, and have bolstered the Ranger's defense.

Defense—BILL WHITE: Strictly a defensive player, who seldom crosses the opposition's blue line, White has kept a link with the past by playing a fundamental, positional style of hockey. Usually plays the man, and NHL forwards admit there's no one tougher to get around than White.

Goalie—ROGATIEN VACHON: Holds lowest goals-against average in the playoffs for active goalie with more than 10 games playoffs for active goalie with more than 10 games played. (1.94) Vachon knows what pressure is all about when he jumped into 1969 playoffs to replace Gump Worsely, and led Canadiens to six straight triumphs and the Stanley Cup. At the age of 21, Vachon appeared in nine playoff games and fashioned an impressive 2.54 goals-against average.

Although there are many other players who may have been overlooked, the aforementioned players have stood out for the consistency of their efforts, and the realization of that little extra that adds up to success ★

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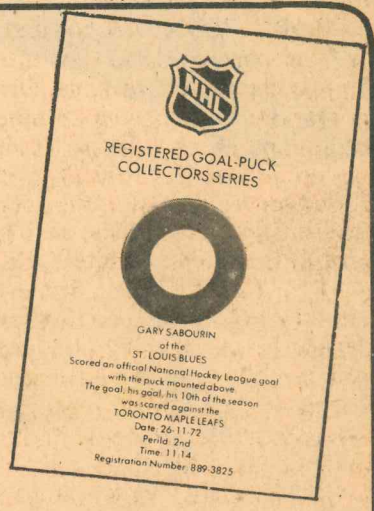

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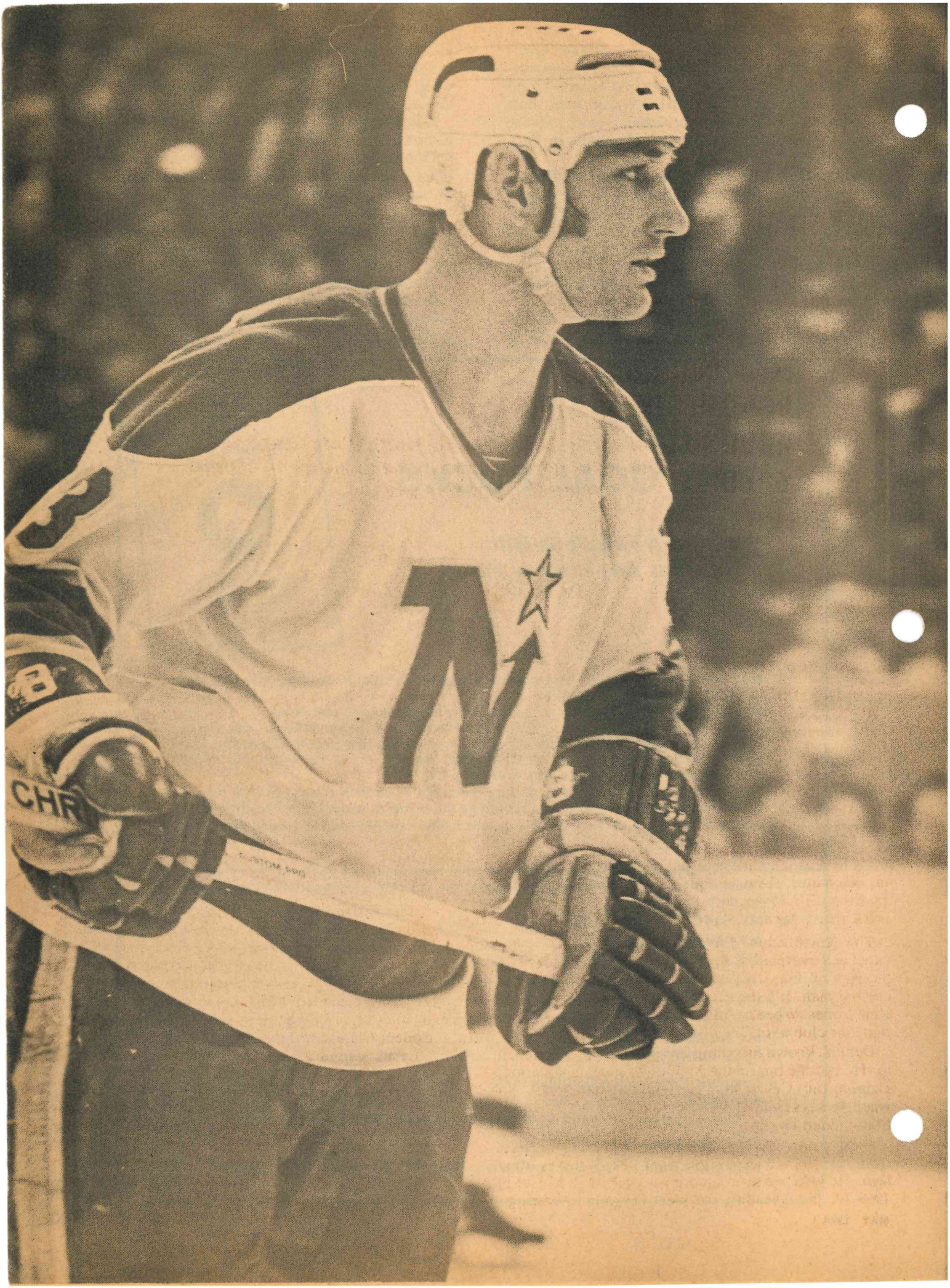


goldy

Bill Goldsworthy of the Minnesota North Stars emerged as one of the premier right wingers in the game as he scored over 40 goals this season.

BY NORM MacLEAN

THIS HAS NOT been a good year for the Minnesota North Stars. Picked by some to finish in the top three in the NHL's West Division, the Stars stumbled out of the starting gates and failed to climb any higher than fifth place.

Conversely, it has been an excellent year for Bill Goldsworthy. Despite his team's plight, Goldsworthy scored over 40 goals, more than he had scored in any previous season.

"The reason I have been having such as good year is my linemates, (Dennis) Hextall and (Danny) Grant," said the 6'1" 194-pound right wing. "Hex does more work than a team of soldiers."

The North Stars, charged with being under motivated and overpaid, have been kept alive this season by the Hextall line. Hextall maintains, "Goldsworthy is our big man. It's the guy who lights the red light that wins games. When he was suspended for three games it hurt our club a lot."

Dennis, known for telling it as it is, should be listened to. He put the rap on the Minnesota goaling situation, claiming only Cesare Maniago really wanted to play. So when he says Goldsworthy is the big gun on the North Stars, listen brother.

Goldy, now 29, is one of two original North Stars from the 1967-68 expansion team. The other is Maniago. He held the team record for goals with 36, set in 1969-70, and is leading the West Division in scoring.

Last season Goldy got off poorly and at the All Star break scored only 15 goals, compared to 27 this year.

"I think we know each other better this year," he explains. "Hextall seems to find me easier and he knows where Danny is, too. Last year, our line wasn't yet established and there was a lot of juggling."

Did Goldsworthy, who has seen them all come and go, place any blame on departed coach Jackie Gordon?

"None whatsoever. I think he was just about the best coach we had here in Minnesota. He got things organized when he took over four year ago. I was sorry to seem him go," said Bill.

Under Parker Mac Donald, a former North Star original and longtime NHL player with Detroit, Toronto and Rangers, Goldy has continued his fine 1973-74 work. For a time he was being boomed as a potential 50 goal scorer, but this was somewhat shortchanged when Goldsworthy and Bill Lesuk got into a kicking contest and Goldy received a three game suspension from NHL president Clarence Campbell.

"Lesuk started the kicking contest and Bill just did the same thing," said Hextall. "Why didn't he get three games also?"

"It doesn't seem right that I get the three games and Lesuk got away Scott free," growled Goldy. "The Kings are trying to make the playoffs just like us, so I understand how charged up he was, but that doesn't mean he didn't do it first. I think I was taken advantage of because I am more in the limelight."

Goldsworthy still remembers that the Bruins gave up on him in 1967.

Goldy is not rated as a fighter, nor a policeman, but he had to be dragged from the Los Angeles winger after the fight was well underway. Campbell, appalled at the skate kicking, handed down his verdict after viewing films and TV clips of the incident.

MacDonald notes, "Goldy didn't let the suspension bother his play. He still is our big man and deserved to be on the West All Star team."

Bill is still bitter at the Boston Bruins organization for exposing him in the original expansion and claims he is better than several Boston right wings.

"Anything Ken Hodge can do I can do," says Goldy. "And I'm better than a couple of those other guys. Ask Derek Sanderson."

Sanderson was Goldsworthy's center on the Memorial Cup winning 1964 Niagara Fall Flyers. Goldy played three years of Junior, scoring 56 goals and assisting on 75 others. In three seasons Boston gave him a total of 18 games, and optioned him out to Buffalo (AHL) and Oklahoma City (CPHL) the rest of the time. Then came expansion and the North Stars.

"I had a knee problem part of that time, but really I never knew if I was coming or going," recalls Goldsworthy.

His first year at Minnesota he scored 14 goals in 69 games, but he led the playoffs in goals with eight and total points with 15 in 14 games.

"Goldsworthy worked his butt off in the playoffs and proved what he could do," recalls Wren Blair, then the GM-coach and now just the Minnesota GM. "But the next season he was so bad we had to send him to Memphis to straighten him out. He was back after six games."

He logged 14 goals that season, but burst through the next year with his

"Goldy is a star, but not a superstar"

record 36 goals and 29 assists for 65 points. In 1970-71 it was 34 goals and the next year 31. Then last year he got off slowly and fell back to 27 goals.

In Minnesota, Goldsworthy is the big man. There is his life history done up in something called the Goldy Shuffle, which is his celebration dance after scoring a goal. Goldy is the only North Star to score four goals in a game and he has five career hat tricks prior to this season.

Hextall, who is sometimes unhappy that the New York Rangers really didn't give him a full chance, said, "Hey Kraut, tell them how you like to play against the Bruins."

"He's right," admitted Bill. "I get extra high against the Boston team. Sanderson is still my friend but that doesn't change my feelings towards them."

When asked why Minnesota got off so poorly this year, Goldsworthy shrugged and declined to answer. Like many he doesn't want to pinpoint the problem in goal with Fern Rivard, up from New Haven or 45-year-old Gump Worsley. Most of the North Stars respect Worsley, but Gump isn't always ready to play. He had to play six straight games when Maniago was hurt. Also there has been criticism of the slow start and not that much better play of Fred Stanfield, the big name center obtained from Boston in the controversial trade sending youthful goaler Gilles Gilbert to the Bruins.

"I just want to make the playoffs. You know anything can happen if you get into the playoffs," said Goldsworthy.

In his seventh season with Minnesota, Goldsworthy still is an ordinary player who has done too well to go unnoticed and not well enough to be really secure if it weren't for the World Hockey Association. He has a big slope-shouldered physique like Godie Howe, power in his shot and he is tough to move out of the slot.

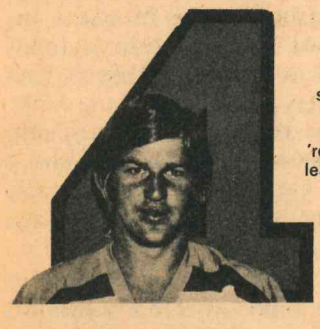
"Realistically he is a star, but not a superstar," says Blair. "There are only a few guys like Bobby Orr or Esposito around, but Goldy is right under them."

"I like playing with Danny and Denny," says Goldy. "Grant is 27 and Hextall is the old man at 30. It looks like we might stay together awhile, although you never know. I though I was set with Jude Drouin a couple of years ago and we got separated. If you stay together you get to know what to expect and that's half the battle in scoring goals."

If the North Stars win their playoff battle if will most likely be because of Goldy's goals. Come to think of it, it really helped the NHL when the Bruins cut Goldsworthy loose. What a shambles Boston would make of the race if they had another big goal man ★

A SUMMER TO REMEMBER AT THE ORR-WALTON SPORTS CAMP

ORR-WALTON SPORTS CAMP
ORILLIA CANADA



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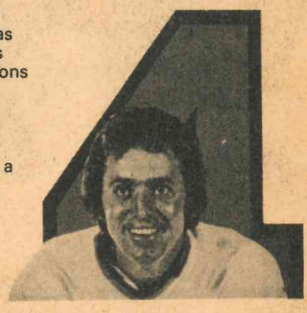

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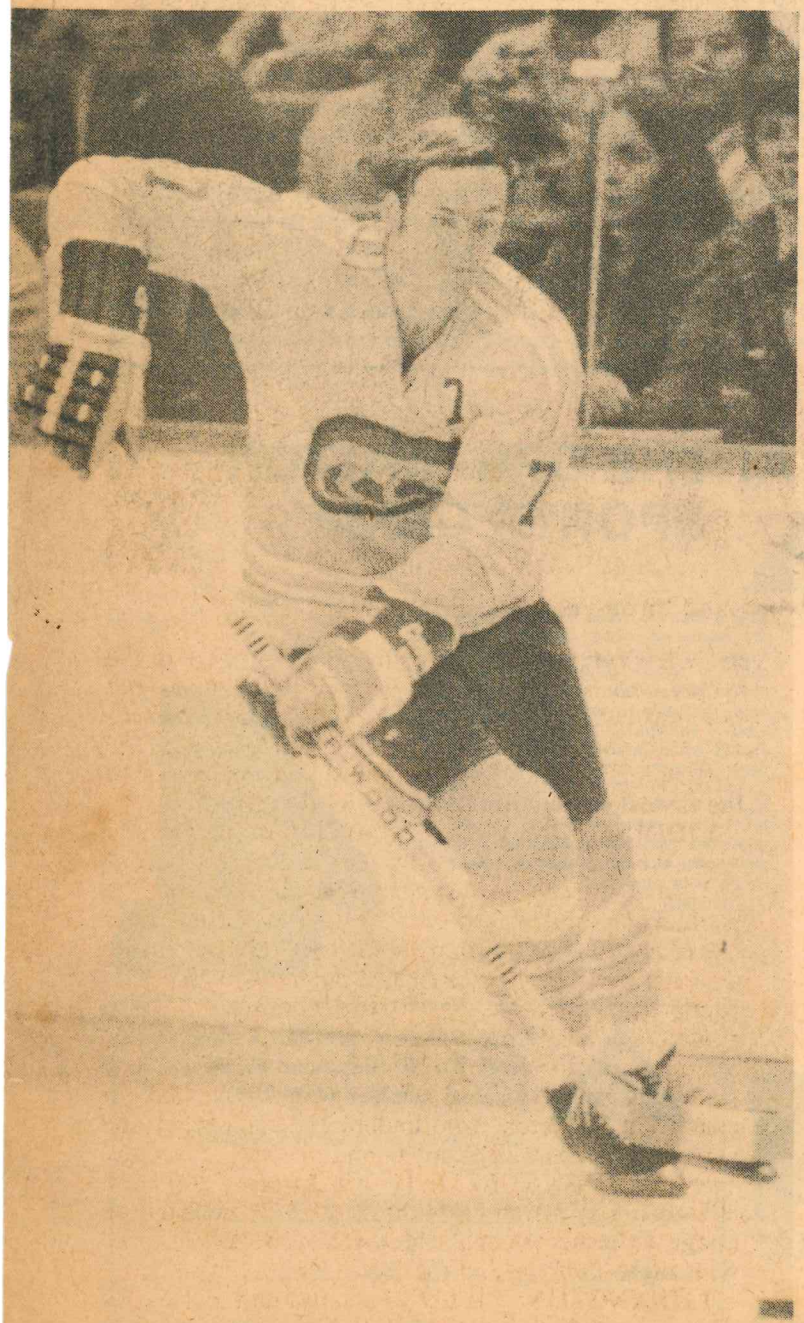
The Thinking Man's Cougar

Chicago Cougars' Bob Liddington explains his theories on the game of hockey.



BY GENE HOLCOMBE

HE DOES HIS job very well... his real, true value is known only by his coach... he's not a flashy player, but I don't think I've ever played with or coached a player who goes up and down his wing as well as he does... he does an excellent job and has a great future ahead of him... he's a tremendous worker, just what I'd call an honest hockey player... he's a real fine boy and a credit to the game."

Okay... so, who's talking, and about whom? Well, the man talking was Pat Stapleton, coach of the Chicago Cougars of the WHA, and the subject of the conversation was his left winger, Bob Liddington.

I acquired a liking for the Cougars about a year ago when I was in Chicago on business and went out to see them play. Since then, I have followed their fortunes with increasing interest and even though they've had their ups and downs, I've stayed with them.

After seeing them in action a few times, my attention began to center on Liddington. I became fascinated by his quiet efficiency, his lightning reflexes and the manner in which he was doing his job. Following is an interview with him.

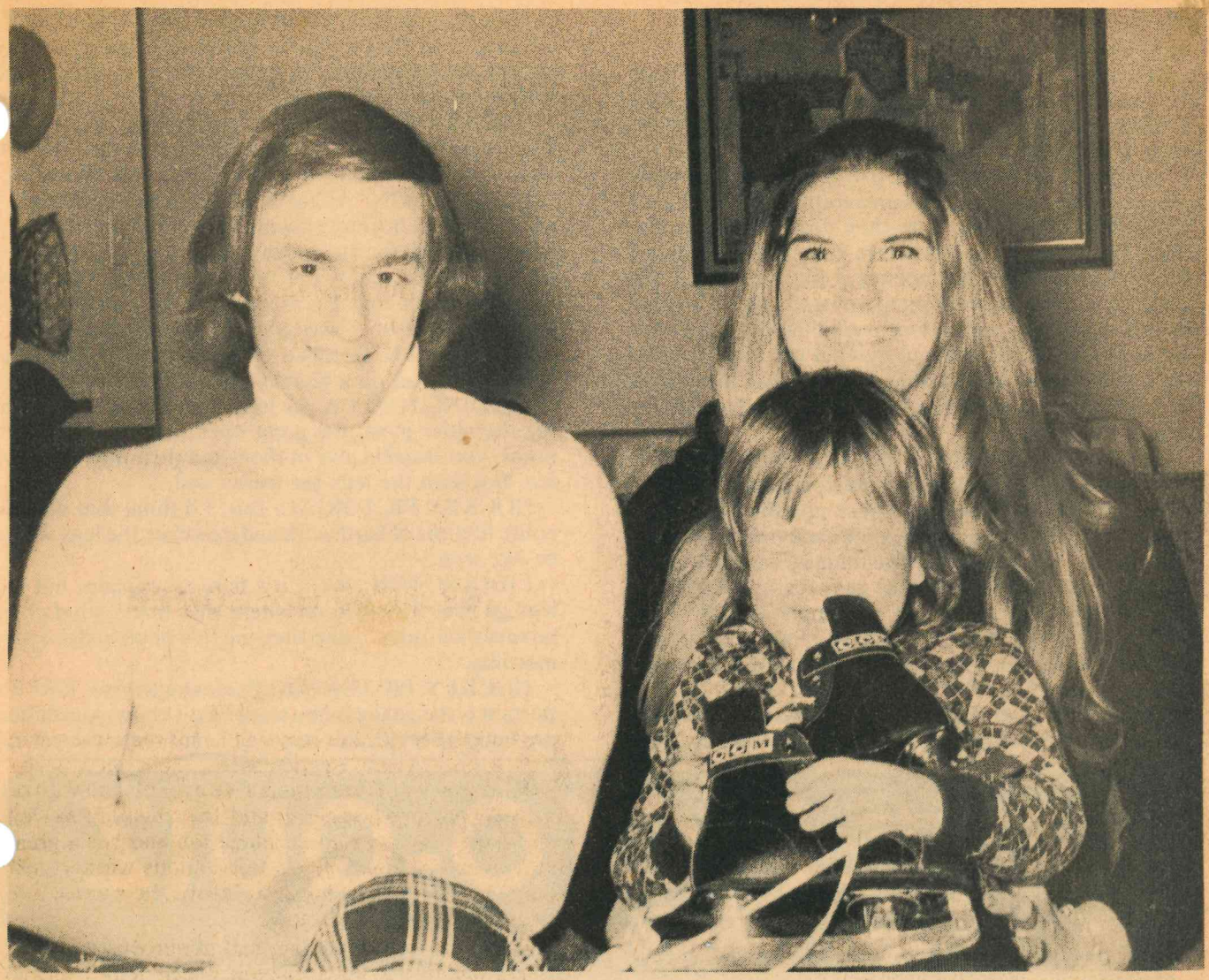
HOCKEY PICTORIAL: An increasing number of professionals have signed up with outfits that specialize in managing the business affairs of athletes. Have you gone this route, or do you operate on your own?

LIDDINGTON: I've retained the services of All-Sports, Inc., of Indianapolis, and they are a fine group of guys. They have attorneys, accountants, and the like, and they do a fine job for their clients. I let them handle the details and I play the hockey.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: How do they get along with club management people?

LIDDINGTON: Fine, as far as I know. Like I said, they're good people and act as a go-between and, it seems to me, for the good of all concerned.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: Let's talk for a minute



Liddington poses with his wife Sue Ann and three-year-old son Robbie.

about the roughness in hockey, particularly the brawling. Some people, especially those who know little or nothing about the game, think that some of the fights are put-ons, just to create a sort of phony rivalry and sell tickets. What's your honest opinion on this?

LIDDINGTON: Let me say this... in all my years in the game, I've never known of a phony fight in a hockey game. It's rough enough as it is, and the players expect to get roughed up in the normal course of trying to win.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: Well, then, what starts the fights?

LIDDINGTON: Oh, lots of things can happen... first of all, you're all out there trying to win, and you're constantly being frustrated by guys on the other team who want to win, too. But you get used to that. But sometimes that frustration drives a player to take a cheap shot at you, like hitting you from behind or shoving a glove in your face. Then, in the heat of competition, the gloves come off and you go at it.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: But, you'd say that on the average, most players realize that hockey is "every man for himself" so to speak, and they expect to pick up some bruises and stitches in a good, clean, hard-fought game?

LIDDINGTON: That's right. Oh, of course, you've got a few running grudges going here and there in the league, and you've got some guys with short fuses, but as I said, we've learned to take care of ourselves over the years and play rough and tumble, yet keep it clean.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: They tell me you're one of the fastest skaters in the league. Is that true?

LIDDINGTON: Well, now you're putting me in a spot. When I was with Tulsa, they did have a sort of contest to see who could skate around the rink, with the puck, in the shortest time, and I guess I won. But I don't like to boast... I just want to do the best I can to help the Cougars win. Since I'm only 5-11 and weigh only 175, I suppose I try to compensate for that by doing my best as a skater, covering my area and trying to make every move count. In spite of our being a bit down in the standings, we have a real swell bunch of guys and our coach Pat Stapleton, who understand each other and work together as well as any team I've ever been with.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: How important is it for you fellows to stay in training? I mean, some people have an image of the professional athlete really living it up, what with night-clubbing and the like.

LIDDINGTON: I'll tell you important it is... for example, while the coach judges you mostly on your performance, he watches the scales, too. He'll even get

on a guy over a matter of two or three pounds.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: No kidding?

LIDDINGTON: That's right. Being even a little overweight would be like putting a couple of lead weights in your pockets... before the game was over, those lead weights would begin to slow you down.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: Do you mean that nobody goes out on the town and tips up a couple now and then?

LIDDINGTON: Oh, sure they do... but not to excess. There may be sports where you can live it up and still make the grade, but hockey... like basketball, for instance... really takes it out of you and you've just got to be in shape to... well, let me put it this way... let's say some guy on the team is out living it up, then the next night gets sloppy, loses his man and we lose the game 1 to 0. That man is not going to be very popular with the rest of the guys.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: That I can believe. What is your usual routine, on road trips, for example?

LIDDINGTON: Well, we check into the hotel, have dinner, maybe a beer or two, then sack out. We have a bed check... the whole bit. The thing is, we want to win hockey games, and most of the guys really put out, and do their level best to win. It's a simple as that.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: You're 25 now. If you stay healthy, about how many more good years can you expect to have?

LIDDINGTON: Well, that's pretty hard to predict... some players have managed to hang in there for a long as 20 years... or even a little longer. I know one thing's for sure... as long as I can cut it, I'm going to play hockey, and to do that I'm going to do everything I can to stay healthy, as you put it.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: In your earlier years... like when you were a kid... what different things did you want to be, like a policeman or a fireman or whatever?

LIDDINGTON: As far back as I can remember, I wanted to be a hockey player and nothing else. I played a little baseball for fun and my folks thought I might try for a baseball career, but to me there was never the slightest doubt that I was going to play professional hockey... at least, I was going to give it all I had.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: What's the first thing that starts to go bad on a hockey player as he gets older?

LIDDINGTON: Oh, the legs. You can tell by watching the older guys, the great ones... the first few minutes, you stand in awe of them and their moves on the ice. But then the legs get weary and...

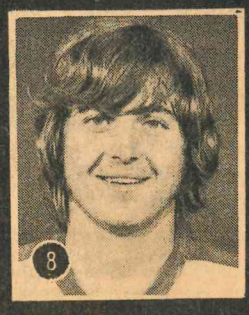
HOCKEY PICTORIAL: But, I'd think that with an entire lifetime of hard work and exercise, the legs would be like iron.

LIDDINGTON: Well, it's hard to explain, but the legs go first. I read somewhere that that's what costs boxers their titles... and they jog five or six miles every morning.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: Percentage-wise, how important is the goalie to the team? You know, lots of fans are hung up on goalies and I've heard some people say

HOCKEY PICTO-QUIZ

How many do you know? Answers on Page 66



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"The WHA has improved 60 to 80 percent"

that the goalie is maybe... oh, 75 percent of the team. What do you think?

LIDDINGTON: Boy, I'll tell you he's certainly a key man. I wouldn't know how to express it percentage-wise, but everybody on the club heaves a little sigh of relief every time the goalie stops one, that's for sure. Of course, somebody has to score, too... so, even though the goalkeeper is a key man, it's got to be a team effort all the way.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: In all honesty, how would you compare the calibre of the play in the WHA with that in NHL? I mean, as of today?

LIDDINGTON: Well, compared with the quality of our over-all play last year, I'd have to say that the talent in the WHA has improved from 60 to 80 percent, at least. I'm not saying we could take them on, team for team, right this minute and beat them all. But we're a young league, we're building with guys who really want to win, and we're bound to keep on improving. We know we've got something to prove, and we're going to prove it.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: Unlike basketball and football, you fellows don't seem to have much trouble with the officials on the ice.

LIDDINGTON: That's right. They're really competent and they have to run the show, and they do. On the other hand, we try to stay out of trouble as much as we can. You can't do your team much good while you're sitting in the box.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: You've played against Bobby Hull, of course. Is he rough?

LIDDINGTON: He's not rough... he's just good.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: In other words, he's a gentleman? Not a hoodlum?

LIDDINGTON: No way. Oh, of course, if you try a cheap shot on him, he's big enough and strong enough to pay you back, but good. But he's just a super hockey player and while everybody does his best to beat Bobby, they respect him as a player and as a person.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: How much time do you spend away from little Robbie and your wife?

LIDDINGTON: Actually, we're pretty lucky. We live right here in a Chicago suburb and, since I play for a Chicago team, it isn't too bad. A road trip may last four or five days, but that's no worse than, say, a salesman would have to put up with.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: Are there ever times when you have at least a fleeting thought that maybe you'd rather be doing something else? Surely there must be times when you think that maybe... just maybe... there must be a better way to earn a living?

LIDDINGTON: No. I think I'm a pretty fair hockey player, I'm playing for and with a swell bunch of people, doing the one thing I love to do. I can't imagine ever doing anything else.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: Even after the legs go?

LIDDINGTON: Even after the legs go. Of course I'm still young and it's entirely possible that when I have to hang up the skates I might wind up in some kind of business... that's still a long way off. But, even so, I'd still hope to be connected with hockey in some way.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: How long have you been playing hockey?

LIDDINGTON: Well, one of my earliest, hazy memories is of wobbling around on skates, taking some pretty sloppy shots at a hockey puck. I guess I might have been six years old... or, even a bit younger.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: Even younger? Boy, they do start them young up there, don't they?

LIDDINGTON: They sure do... even lots of girls play hockey... everybody plays... if you just come to skate and can't shoot a puck, you catch a puck in the shins a few times, then you get the general idea and get

LIDDINGTON: Not very much. It's more of a community activity until you get up to midget hockey, when you're about 14.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: What about a boy, say from 14 to 18... what kind of a team would he play on?

LIDDINGTON: If he's any good, he'd be "A" calibre... that's the best there is.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: Would that be a school team?

LIDDINGTON: No... it would be more or less sponsored by a WHA or NHL team.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: Really... at that young an age?

LIDDINGTON: Yes... they put a lot of money into developing hockey players in Canada, because that's where they all come from. They don't put the money into the players themselves, but they do invest a lot of money into equipment, traveling expenses and so forth.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: Something like the Little League baseball program here in the States, only on a more serious scale? In other words, if a young lad shows some ability at, say the age of 15 or so, they begin to watch him?

LIDDINGTON: Oh, very definitely... even before that.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: When you were, let's say, between the ages of 14 and 18, what were you doing in hockey? Where were you playing... what were you doing?

LIDDINGTON: Well, when I was 14... that was back in the days when they had the "C" form, and I signed it. When you sign that, you were obligated to one certain NHL hockey club, and my team was the Toronto Maple Leafs.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: Obligated? For how long?

LIDDINGTON: Until you make it as a pro, or give up hockey. That is, if you don't make the big time, then you're sent down to a farm club to see whether you can make it there, while you're still developing and maybe learning more about the game.

HOCKEY PICTORIAL: At what age were you summoned to Toronto?

LIDDINGTON: At 20... that was the minimum age then. Of course, now, that's been changed. Also, the "C" form has been done away with. Now, with the two leagues operating, players are drafted, just like American football players ★

The Way It Was...

MAY 1954

Detroit Red Wings defenseman Red Kelly is named winner of the Lady Byng and James Norris Trophies. Kelly is the first winner of the Norris award, named for the late Detroit owner and president. It will be given annually to the league's outstanding defenseman.

***

Chicago goaltender Al Rollins, captures the Hart Trophy while Camille Henry takes home the Calder award for best rookie.

***

Don Marshall of the AHL's Buffalo Bisons wins that league's rookie award and is now being touted as the successor to Elmer Lach on the Montreal Canadiens. Hershey's Red Sullivan wins the American League's Most Valuable Player award.

***

In the 1953-54 season, 12 NHL players score 20 or more goals led by Maurice Richard with 37.

MAY 1964

NHL president Clarence Campbell is considering a proposal to institute an award for the player voted most valuable to his team in the playoffs. A spectacular performance by Detroit Red Wings defenseman Bill Gadsby in the 1963-64 playoffs launched the proposal of the award, which will be named after Conn Smythe.

***

The Montreal Canadiens and Chicago Black Hawks dominate the individual awards handed out by the NHL. Canadiens' Jean Beliveau wins the Hart Trophy as most valuable player while teammate Jacques Laperriere, a defenseman, is named rookie of the year. Chicago's Pierre Pilote is named top defenseman while teammate Ken Wharram is honored with the Lady Byng Trophy.

***

The Hawks also dominate the All Star team, placing five men on the first team. Goaltender Glenn Hall, defenseman Pierre Pilote and the forward line of Stan Mikita, Bobby Hull and Ken Wharram win first team honors. The only non-Chicagoan is Toronto Maple Leaf defenseman Tim Horton. The second team consists of Montreal goaltender Charlie Hodge, defenseman Jacques Laperriere and center Jean Beliveau. Gordie Howe of Detroit, Frank Mahovlich of Toronto and Elmer Vasko of Chicago nail down the remaining spots.

***

The Montreal Canadiens experience a front-office shakeup with David Molson moving to the president's slot and Sam Pollock moving up to the general manager's position. Ken Reardon resigns as vice-president of the team.

The Way It May Be...

MAY 1984

The Howard Johnson Broadcasting network, broadcasters of NHL hockey since 1980, recently announced that former NHL great Ted Lindsay, out of work for seven years, will join the HJB hockey crew of H.R. Haldeman and Ronald Reagan beginning next season. Lindsay was formerly the color commentator for NBC in the early 1970's until he was replaced by the more popular and eloquent Peter Puck. Lindsay's partner before his departure, Tim Ryan, also was replaced eventually by yet another cartoon character, Steven Stick, while, in 1977, Brian MacFarlane's job as intermission host was taken by Bugs Bunny. NBC remarked at the time that the moves were necessary to try to cater to the larger viewing audience.

***

Mrs. Derek Sanderson is filing for divorce following an altercation with her husband last week. According to Mrs. Sanderson, the "Turk" (or the "Turkey" as she referred to him), slapped her when she dropped a bag of garbage on his skates. She struck him back with a banana peel at which time he fled from the house dragging a Boston Bruins sweat-shirt behind him. Both parties have stated that a reconciliation is next to impossible although Derek implied that his $150 job as a skate sharpener in a Boston rink makes it difficult for him to pay for a cab, let alone alimony.

***

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

In the area of killing penalties the Philadelphia Flyers have had a lot of practice. Maybe that's why coach Fred Shero has made them so good at it.

BY ED CONRAD

One of the National Hockey League records the Philadelphia Flyers have a chance at breaking this year is scoring more shorthanded goals than any other team in history.

The record is 25, set by the Boston Bruins three years ago. The way the Flyers were putting the puck in the net the first half of this season, they had an outside shot at setting a new standard. They had scored 16 by March.

"You've got to admit we've got one terrific advantage." grinned Bobby Clarke, the Flyers' leader and captain. "We certainly give ourselves plenty of opportunity to play shorthanded."

The Flyers, who set a league record for penalty minutes by one team a year ago (1,756), were miles ahead of their nearest competitors as the hockey season headed into its last month.

The rambunctious Flyers appear headed toward a new record, as they had over 1400 minutes with a month left in the schedule.

However, because of their excellent penalty-killing, general manager Keith Allen and coach Fred Shero weren't even slightly alarmed.

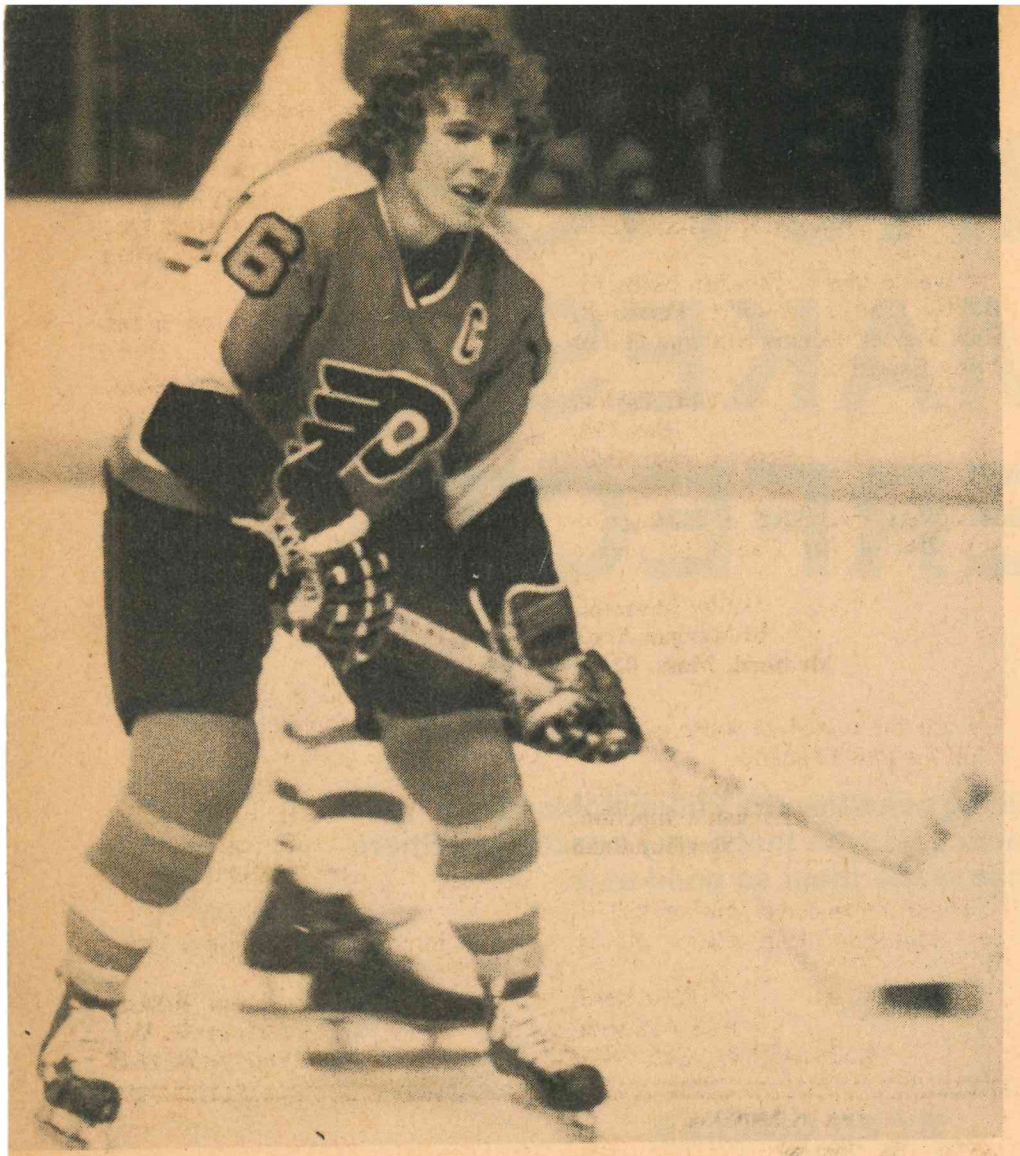
In fact, it was getting to the point where the Flyers were almost as dangerous when they were skating shorthanded as they were when operating a power play.

Much of the credit must go to Shero and assistant coach Mike Nykoluk for taking what used to be a serious disadvantage and turning it into a definite advantage.

Shero did considerable research on penalty-killing after he took over as Flyers' coach in 1971. His team was taking more than its share of penalties and quite often the other team's power-play goal was depriving the Flyers of a victory or a tie in the close games.

So the Flyers' brass studied the Bruins' success at scoring goals shorthanded, and at the same time keeping the opposition's power play from turning on the red light too often.

Shero's major revelation—although it was obvious to many observers in the stands—was that the Bruins did not think defensively during a penalty-killing stint. True, they were giving considerable thought to protecting their own goal, but Boston was thinking offensively all the while.



Flyer captain Bobby Clarke says one reason for their success is Shero's approach to the game.

"Our guys had to be taught to think offensively—same as the Bruins do—when killing off penalties," said Shero. "Most guys, see, treat it as a negative situation and assume they're out there not to score, but to waste time. I convinced them there was a way to turn it into a offensive opportunity.

"Then, too, I had to show them exactly what Boston was doing."

Shero showed his players the conventional method of setting up in the other team's end when trying to kill a penalty. Fred made one very noticeable change in the precedure, however — one that has really paid off handsomely for his club.

"When one of our forwards gets possession I want him to do something completely unexpected and skate right to the sideboards," explains Shero. "Nine times out of 10, the point man closest to him will move toward him. At that moment, he's supposed to throw the puck up the middle, where our other forward has already begun to move. Now the guy who's just passed busts past the point man. Presto! You've got a two-on-one break and our closet defenseman usually gets up there quickly enough (because he knows the play) to make it a three-on-one.

"I'll tell you this. Most of those 16 (shorthanded) goals have been scored in just this way."

Shero's system also is working so well because almost all of the personnel gets into the act when the Flyers are killing penalties.

Of Philly's 11 shorthanded goals in the first half of the season, nine different players had the honor of beating the opposing goaltender.

Anyone in hockey will tell you that a shorthanded goal very often means a great deal more than just another red light. It frequently demoralizes the other team, and the momentum usually remains with the team that scores when at a manpower disadvantage.

That's why, quite frequently, you'll find that the team that scores when killing a penalty follows up with another score within minutes after the teams are back at equal strength. It can definitely break open a tight game.

Of course, there is more to the Flyers' success this season than just their excellent penalty-killing knack. They have been getting superb goaltending from Bernie Parent, have been scoring their share of goals and have been playing extremely well defensively.

There is no question as to the contribution Shero himself has made to the maturity of the team. He has always been highly respected as a knowledgeable coach. For sure the New York Rangers—in whose farm system he labored for years—are very regretful they didn't move him to the big tim when they had their opportunities.

Fred is a low-key guy who doesn't get upset very easily. He's a highly capable handler of his men... treating them as men, which is most important in this day and age. And he certainly knows his hockey.

Clarke spoke for the whole team when he said the guys really enjoy playing for Shero, who is sort of like the head of one big happy family.

"We really believe in Fred's approach," notes Bobby, who has seen the Flyers turn completely around in his few short years with the team.

Now the big question is whether the Flyers can be consistent, playing the same winning brand of hockey they had played the first half of the year.

It could add up to a berth in the Stanley Cup finals. It may even mean a Stanley Cup if the Flyers can put it all together in the playoffs. Who knows?

One thing you can be sure about if they do reach the final seven-gam series to determine who winds u No.1, the Flyers undoubtedly will do some shorthanded scoring. The trick they've learned this season shouldn't be forgotten that easily ★

Fan Talk...

(Continued from page 56)

great success is Ian Turnbull. Although he's in his rookie year, he plays with the experience of a veteran. I think Ian and Borje Salming make a great defensive team. Not only is Ian a candidate for the rookie award, but the Norris Trophy, too.

Jan Wood,
Oshawa, Ont.

(A certain Robert Orr may have something to say about that.)

FAN CLUBS

Anyone interested in joining the Nick Beverley Fan Club please write:

Doreen Mazzola,
42 Elm St.,
Somerville, Ma. 02143

Anyone interested in joining a fan club for Cleveland Crusaders' Rob Neale, please contact:

Lauree Garda,
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Solon, Ohio 44139

I would like to join a fan club for the Montreal Canadiens.

Ron Ainger,
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Ottawa, Ont. K2C 3C4

Anyone interested in joining the Bobby Hull Fan Club please write:

Jan Arnesano,
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Swampscott, Mass. 01907

I would like to join fan clubs for Bobby Clarke, Gilbert Perreault, Rick Martin, Dennis Hull and Phil or Tony Esposito.

Cliff Taylor,
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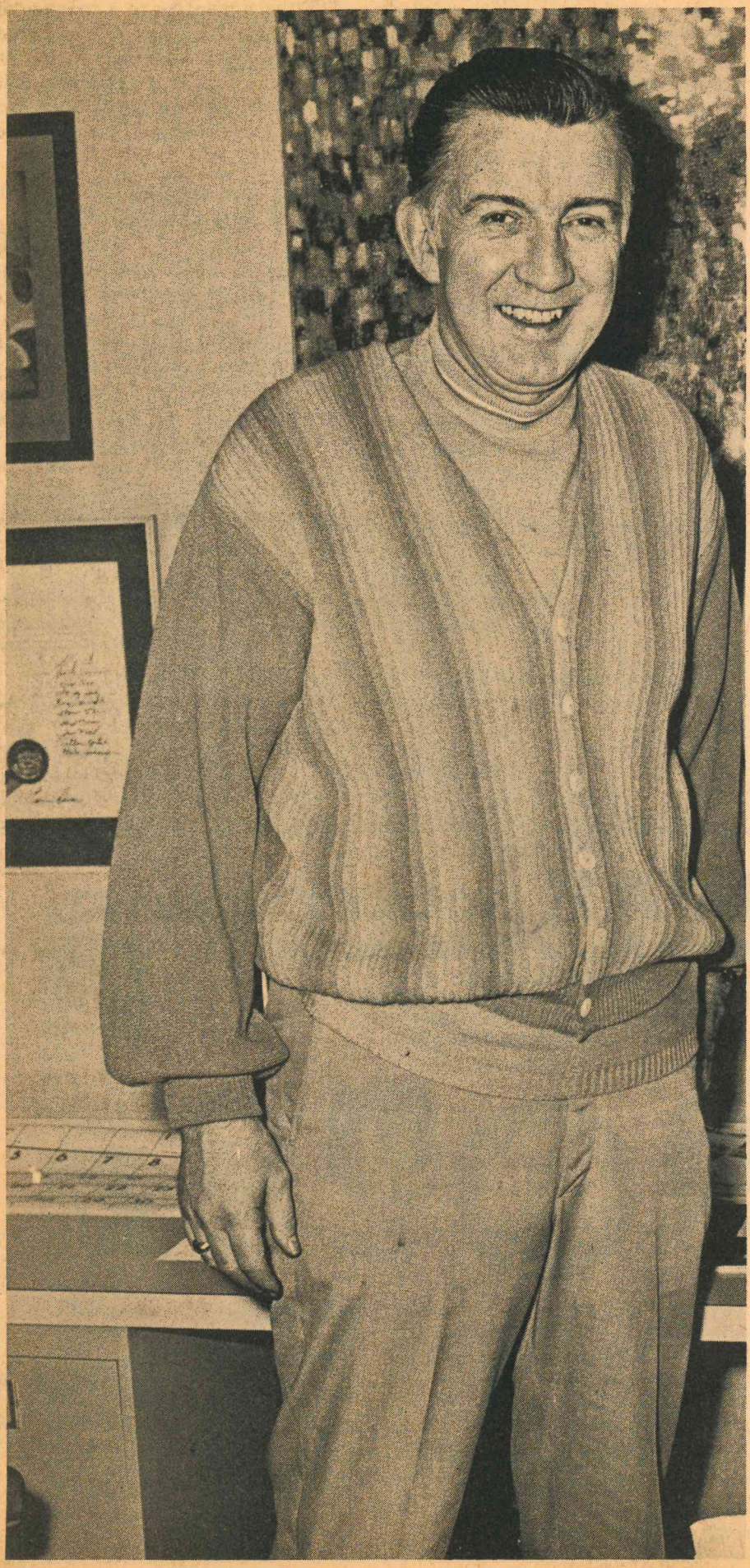

finding happiness in the shadows

Max McNab could have moved up to the big leagues, but he's found the minors more satisfying.

BY BILL LIBBY

THE SPOTLIGHT has not shone much on Max McNab. He has lived most of his hockey life in the shadows of the minor leagues — in the Central League, in the American League, in the Western League, with only three years in the National League. But, he is not bitter.

"People look down on the minors and it's not right," he says. "There are major league cities in the minors. There is not a finer city anywhere than San Diego to work, live and raise your family. Hockey has been good to me and I have no regrets about where it's taken me. I've had many thrills in the game."

However, his biggest thrill, he admits, came in the majors, when at 24 he scored early in the third overtime period, in the 105th minute of play, to beat Montreal in Detroit during the Stanley Cup playoffs on March 22, 1949. It was something of a fluke goal, which rebounded off the goaltender and deflected off a defenseman into the nets, but it brought his Red Wing teammates on him in happiness.

He remembers thinking how much of a hero he'd be back in his hometown of Watson, Saskatchewan. The next morning, he found headlines proclaiming "1000-to-one Shot Wins For Wings." And there was a picture of the goal with arrows drawn in to diagram how lucky the shot was. Which is the way it appeared in the newspaper back home, too.

Now, nearing the silver anniversary of that shot, tall, greying Max McNab, nearing his 50th birthday, laughs about it. "It sure brought me back to earth in a hurry," he smiles. "I had a big head for about eight hours. I took a teasing for a long time after that and I've tried very hard to keep things in perspective ever since."

With the help of that seventh-period score, Detroit won that series in seven games, but lost the finals to Toronto in four games. That was the only playoff goal Max ever scored, though he did play inNHL playoffs four years and did play alongside such as Gordie Howe, Sid Abel, Ted Lindsay, Red Kelly, Black Jack Stewart and Harry Lumley on the Detroit team managed by Jack Adams and coached by Tommy Ivan which captured the Cup by winning the playoff laurels the following year, 1950.

This was the only championship club with which Max has been associated and his eyes glisten with the magic memory of it. "You never forget something like that. It's something most players never have a share of even once," he says, wistful with the wonder of it.

Max scored only 16 goals and assisted on only 19 others in 128 games spread over three regular seasons with the Wings in the majors in the late 1940's and early 1950's. He did play many years in the minors, with Omaha and Indianapolis in the midwest and east, then with New Westminster in the west.

He scored 36 goals one season, the 1950-51 season, with Indianapolis. Max never made it back to the NHL, not as a player, nor as a coach. He wound up his career as a player in the Western League where he scored 180 goals and set up 262 in 463 games before his competitive career of around 20 years came to a close.

He was a playing coach at New Westminster two half-seasons and one full season before the franchise transferred to Portland. He coached at San Francisco one season and Vancouver three seasons before those cites went into the NHL ranks and he coached at San Diego six seasons before stepping aside for Jack Evans last season while remaining as manager. He never moved up to the NHL as a manager or a coach while lesser men did, especially in the last seven seasons since the league has expanded from six to 16 teams, with two more moving in next season. Nor did he move over to the rebel major World Hockey Association when it went into operation last season.

"I wasn't that good a player. I wasn't quick enough. I was a fringe major leaguer at best. I was fortunate to make the majors for even a little while, especially at a time when there were only six teams in the majors and opportunities were extremely limited, I'd have made it in recent years when the standards have not been nearly as high as they once were," he smiles.

"To tell the truth, I have had op-

Max's son Peter is a major league prospect with Buffalo Sabres.

There are few emply seats in San Diego's Sports Arena.

portunities to move up to the majors as a manager or a coach. Not many, but some. I don't want to say which teams, but they did not offer the best of opportunities so I let them go by.

"At first I was offered positions as assistants to executives and they weren't paid as much as the top men in the minors. I had a growing family to support, so I stayed where the money was. In more recent years I've had much better offers, but none good enough to make me leave San Diego.

"It is a marvelous city.My wife and I raised three fine sons here. We have become attached to the team. I was brought in by Bob Breitbard when the team was first formed. I have been with it throughout its history. And I have not had a better boss than Bob Brietbard.

"Maybe I made a mistake. It might have been nice to have gotten an offer I couldn't resist," he smiles. "You always wonder how you might do as a manager or coach in the majors. I may yet get my chance if San Diego moves up the majors. It is a major league city in hockey and rates an opportunity."

The Western Hockey League may be on its last legs. It has been a splendid circuit and today still offers an exciting style of hockey in San Diego, Phoenix, Denver, Portland, Seattle and Salt Lake City. Its president, Bill MacFarland, is one of the brightest executives in sports.

But, the circuit suffered severe losses when Los Angeles, San Francisco and Vancouver moved into the NHL and will suffer another when Phoenix advances to the WHA next season. And its remaining cities all are among the most attractive towns left for future major league moves.

Regular-season attendance in the WHL dipped below a million fans for the first time in seven seasons last season, though it remains near that figure. San Diego attendance has dipped below the seasons when it was the best in the west, though it remains representative. It has a arena and a civic enthusiasm which would support hockey on any level and in Max McNab it has one of the true gentlemen in sports and one of the shrewdest executives in his sport.

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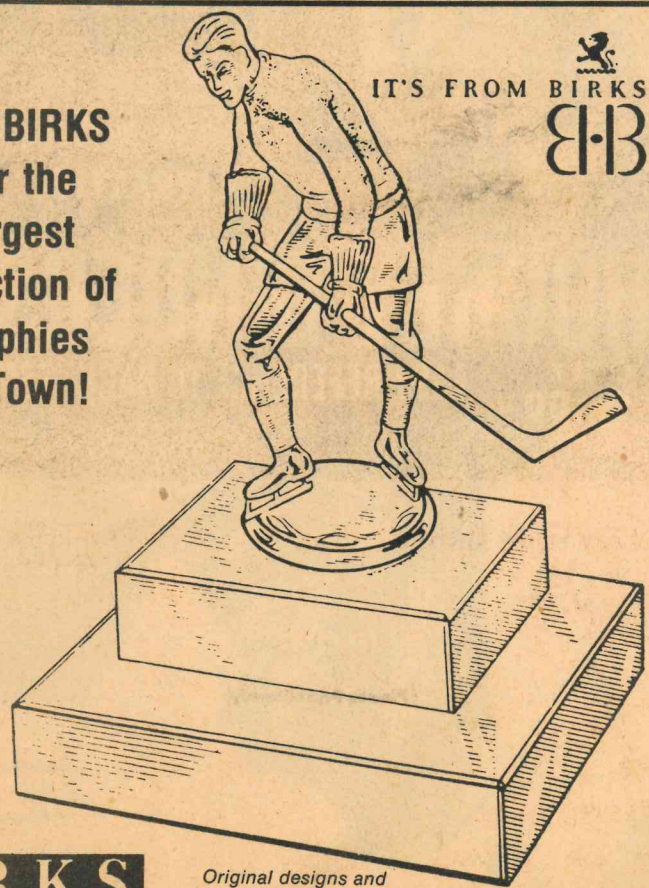

IT'S FROM BIRKS

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They say Max is too nice to be in the NHL

Mac McNab returned to the majors in the spirit this season when his son, Peter McNab, moved up from the minors during an injury emergency in Buffalo. At 6'4" and 210 pounds, Peter is a little bit taller and a lot heavier than his father was' and he is a lot more nimble. Like his dad, he is not an aggressive, rough player, but unlike him he has a quick, strong shot and a deft touch. He has since been sent back to the Cincinnati Swords, where he is an American League star like his father was before him, but he made an excellent impression with the Sabres in the NHL, especially considering his background.

It is astonishing that a lad could develop out of a city such as San Diego, even with access to ice. And his development was slowed by his desire to finish college first. He scored 69 goals in only 94 games at Denver University over three varsity seasons before turning professional this season. It is said that with his size and skill he would have been a budding superstar had he grown up on ice in Canada, as his dad did, and journeyed through junior ranks, but at 21 he is just starting he may yet be a star.

"I am happier for him than I would be for myself," Max says. "I wish I'd had more time to devote to him when he was starting as a player, but maybe it's better this way for he's really making it on his own, and they tell me he will make it. As far as I'm concerned he already has. All of my sons have. Maybe if I'd put hockey first I'd have been in the majors now, but my family has always come first with me."

It has been said that Max may be too nice a man, too much a gentleman, too soft for the tough demands of the majors. He denies it. "I can be as tough as I have to be," he says. "I try to treat people nicely, but I do expect my players to make the most of themselves and I don't think anyone who ever played for me would say I was soft on him if he let me down.

"If you have to be a miserable person to get to the top, well maybe I don't want it that much. My teams in San Diego have not won any titles, but I don't think we've had championship material. It is very tough existing in the minors these days. There are so many major league teams nowadays it is tough to get talent and some players are spoiled by making so much money. But I think we have gotten the most out of what we've had in San Diego. I think I could get the most out of what I was given to work with anywhere. I'm proud of the job I've done in San Diego. It is as tough to succeed there as anywhere. I don't think the measure of a man is where he does his job, but how well he does it," he concluded ★

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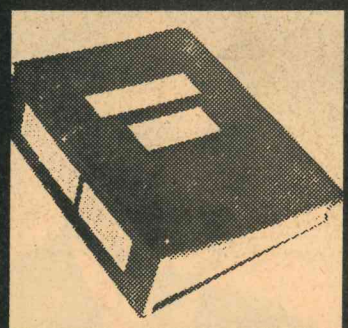

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SHARING THE WEALTH

Playoff money has diminished in the American Hockey League this year as players get more money for their regular-season finish.

BY HANS TANNER

IT WASN'T ALL that long ago that there were players in the American Hockey League making only about $4,000 a year.

Now they can earn that much by playing a minimum of 12 playoff games, providing they win all of them and the Calder Cup.

Unless a first-place team goes on to win the playoffs, the cash return for capturing the Calder Cup actually has gone down from the last two seasons. But you won't hear the players complaining, because it was at their request things were changed this season.

There had been no reward for finishing first or second the last two years other than having the extra home date should the series go the limit.

The players felt that playing all year and finishing on top should be worth something, so the AHL governors agreed to a different dispersement of the funds available.

Each member of the first-place teams receives $700, with the second-place finishers pocketing a $500 league bonus. There is no extra money for third or fourth, the last two playoff spots.

Should a first-place team win the Calder Cup, it will be worth exactly the same as in the past two seasons—$4,000 a man. But $700 of that will be for the finish in the standings.

Here's the breakdown of how much money can be won:

If a first-place team (a) wins the playoffs: $4,000 per man, (b) loses in the finals: $3,000, (c) loses in the semi-finals: $1,900, (d) loses in the first round: $1,350.

AHL president Jack Butterfield

If a second-place team (a) wins the playoffs: $3,800, (b) loses in the finals: $2,800, (c) loses in the semi-finals: $1,700, (d) loses in the first round: $1,150.

If a team finishing third or fourth (a) wins the playoffs: $3,300, (b) loses in the finals: $2,300, (c) loses in the semi-finals: $1,200, (d) loses in the first round: $650.

As in recent years, each series will be a best-of-seven. The first-place teams in each division play the fourth-place club, while the teams in second and third meet. The semi-finals match the survivors within their own divisions, sending one team from each division into the Calder Cup finals.

The league has changed one aspect of the playoffs, but how much effect it really will have won't be known until the pairings are decided.

Instead of the old two-two-one-one-one scheduling of series, which often ran into problems with open dates in the buildings, the league had hoped to alternate the series each game wherever possible.

The energy crisis and location [illegible] cities due to meet may scrap that [illegible] some instances.

"What we have done," AHL president Jack Butterfield explains, "is simply to make the scheduling more flexible in order to play each series in a minimum number of days. The key here, of course, is the 'wherever possible' portion of the change.

"Obviously, we are not going to schedule the extremes (Nova Scotia and Jacksonville, for example) on an alternating basis. On the other hand, a Providence-New Haven series most likely would be an alternating series.

"In any case the scheduling will depend greatly on the dates available in each building."

Rochester, Providence, New Haven and Nova Scotia are certain of spots in the Northern Division, with Cincinnati's defending champion Swords, Hershey and Baltimore set in the Southern Division.

But Virginia, Jacksonville and Richmond were in a battle for the final spot which might not have be[en] decided until the final weekend of t[he] season.

Excluding Virginia, Jacksonville (which is the old Cleveland franchise) and Richmond for the moment, a

look at the teams in the playoffs shows Hershey as the most frequent participant.

The Bears, who haven't missed the playoffs since 1959-60, will be competing for the 32nd time in their 36 years as members of the AHL.

Rookie coach Chuck Hamilton, who replaced veteran Frank Mathers this season, is no stranger to playoffs in Hershey. He played for the Bears seven seasons and was a member of the Calder Cup champions of 1969 and the losing finalists of 1965.

The Bears have won 113 and lost 122 of their 235 playoff games, winning the Cup in 1947, 1958, 1959 and 1969 and going to the finals only to lose in 1941, 1942, 1945, 1949, 1954, 1961, 1963 and 1965.

This will be Providence's 24th visit to the playoffs in 38 seasons. The Reds haven't won nearly as many games as Hershey, but have matched the Bears in Calder Cups.

Providence won the playoffs in 1938, 1940, 1949 and 1956, and was a losing finalist in 1952 and 1971. The Reds have won 60 playoff games and lost 79 of 139.

Rochester, one of two independent teams in the AHL (Baltimore is the other), will be competing for the 12th time in 18 years. The Amerks had a string of successes in the late '60s and won the Calder Cup in 1965, 1966 and 1968, while losing in the finals in 1957, 1960 and 1967. They've won 43 and lost 42 of 85 games.

Baltimore has been in the AHL for a dozen years but has yet to win the playoffs, although the Clippers did reach the finals against Nova Scotia two years ago. Baltimore is the post-season play for the seventh time in 12 seasons and has won 21 games while dropping 29 of 50.

Nova Scotia is a familiar name in the playoffs. The Voyageurs have made it all five of the years in the league. They won the Calder Cup two springs ago and lost to Cincinnati in the finals a year ago. The Vees have won 25 games and lost only 14 of 39.

Cincinnati is in for the third time in three tries, although that city was represented in the AHL by a different organization for three seasons from 1949-50 through 1951-52. That club made it to the playoffs just once and lost in the semi-finals.

But the Swords have more success, winning the championship last spring. Cincinnati has won 18 and lost seven of 25 playoff games. The old Cincinnati team won four and lost three of seven.

New Haven is in its second year back in the AHL and is in the playoff for the first time. That city also was represented in the league— but way back in the AHL's first six years of operation starting in 1936-37. That New Haven team made the playoffs four of the six years, but won only one game while losing eight of nine played.

As for the three teams scrambling for the final position, while Jacksonville, which became the home of the Cleveland Barons late last season, has never seen an AHL playoff game, the Barons have been involved in many.

At Cleveland, the team qualified for the playoffs 31 times in 36 seasons and won nine Calder Cups—in 1939, 1941, 1945, 1948, 1951, 1953, 1954, 1957 and 1964. The Barons lost in the finals in 1944, 1946, 1950, 1956 and 1966. They won 129 and lost 105 of 234 games.

Both Virginia and Richmond com-

(Continued on page 66)

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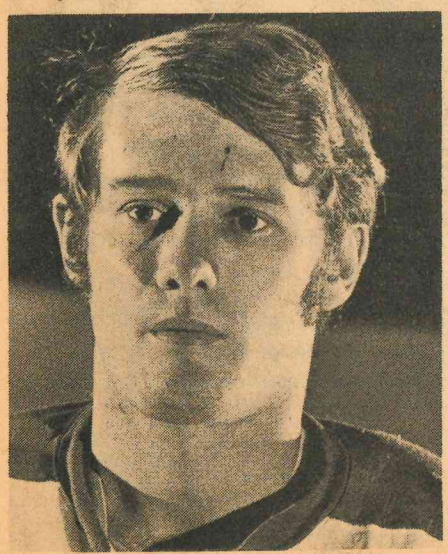
THE ORPHANS FAIL

Without parent clubs, the Albuquerque and Tulsa franchises found themselves at the bottom of the Central Hockey League.

BY TOM LOBAUGH

INDEPENDENT HOCKEY operations may have flourished in other leagues in the 1973-74 season, but operating without the help of an active parent club proved disastrous in the Central League. The Tulsa Oilers and Albuquerque Six-Guns made up the "second division" of the six-team league, and fan support was lacking.

The Guns had a parent club, the expansion Kansas City Scouts of the National League. But, since the Scouts weren't to be operational until the 1974-75 season, the parent club had no players to offer its farm club. Coach Johnny Choyce (and Scouts general manager Sid Abel) went begging around the various training camps.



RAY REESON

With a lineup largely made of players who weren't needed elsewhere, the Guns occupied the CHL cellar from the start of the campaign, and were eliminated from the playoffs before February ended.

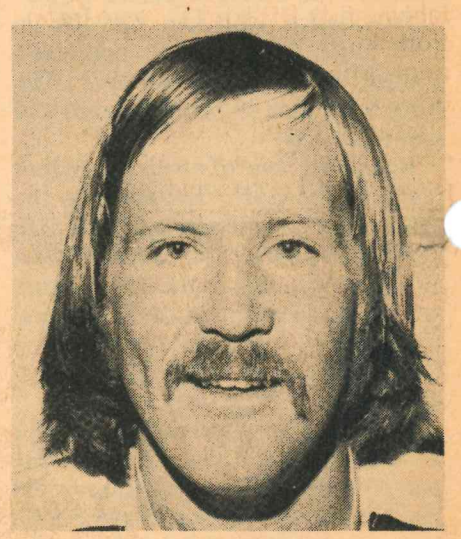
There were some talented players in Albuquerque, but not enough of them to make a difference. And when injuries hit, the Guns found it extremely difficult to get replacements.

Versatile Ken Davidson, borrowed from the Boston system, was challenging for the CHL scoring leadership until a late-season injury. Center Ken Ireland, from the Atlanta system, became the club's top scorer. Ray Reeson, obtained from the Buffalo system, was carrying the entire goalkeeping load until the February arrival of Wayne Wood from the New York Rangers' system.

Davidson had played for the Boston Braves of the American League the previous season, Reeson and Ireland were with the CHL Omaha Knights, and Wood was at Providence in the AHL.

On paper, at least, Tulsa looked to be in better shape. The four NHL teams which had CHL farm clubs in 1972-73 (Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Toronta) were pledged to supply players for the new independent Oilers, after Toronto moved its farm club to Oklahoma City.

Theoretically, these were not to be the "culls" according to Oiler general manager-coach Ray Miron, but a fair proportion of talented rookies



KEN DAVIDSON

and proven players from the systems involved.

But it didn't work out that way in most cases, as the major league clubs sent players they felt they could spare from their principal farm team.

Toronto made the biggest contribution to the Oilers, possibly as a gesture of conciliation to Tulsa fans, after taking the franchise to Oklahoma City. The Oilers got experienced goalie Ron Low, four players with Toronto-Tulsa experience, and three promising rookies.

The Oilers might have been a contender, at that, if they had stayed healthy. Through 61 games they had lost 217 man-games to injuries and illness.

Mike Cormier, the CHL's most valuable player last season at Fort

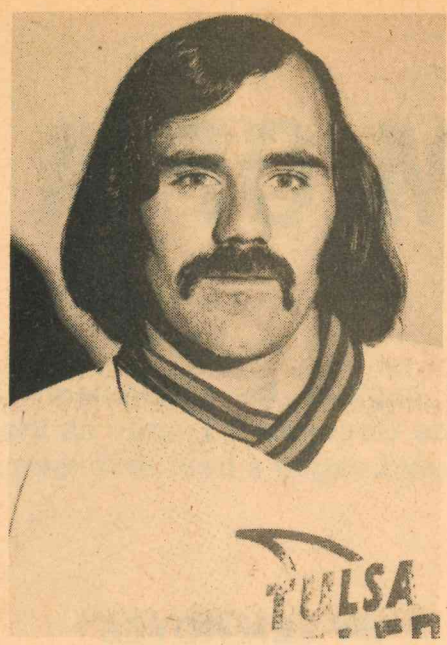
Worth (borrowed from St. Louis) was the top scorer in early games, but was traded by the Blues to Phoenix in the Western League in early November.

Bob Duncan, a third-year Oiler (Toronto property) then became the club's leading scorer until he broke a wrist Nov. 13. Al Genovy (loaned by Detroit) became the most consistent Oiler scorer.

Low, with a season at Toronto under his belt, gave the Oilers a top-notch goalkeeper, but his backup man, rookie Glen Seperich (from the Detroit system) was lost in early February to a knee injury.

Meanwhile the four CHL teams with active parent clubs were waging a hectic battle for the four top position. Omaha's defending Adams Cup champs (backed by Atlanta), pulled slightly ahead as February turned into March, but there wasn't much of a cushion against the challenging Oklahoma City Blazers (Toronto farm), Fort Worth Wings (New York Islanders farm), and Dallas Black Hawks (Chicago Hawks farm).

Center Wayne Schaab, in his second year at Omaha, was making a runaway of the CHL individual scoring race with 25 goals and 76 points through March rookie winger Jean Losier had 29 goals and 61 points.



RON LOW

Closest challenger to Schaab was Victor (Skeeter) Teal of Fort Worth, who played in the AHL for New Haven the previous season. The Skeeter had 27 goals and 63 points.

Oklahoma City's Randy Osburn, who divided the previous season between Toronto and Tulsa, was the league's leading goal scorer with 32 (no one else had 30).

Omaha had the top goalie tandem in experienced John Voss (2.90 average) and rookie Don Muio (2.89). Oklahoma City was getting stingy performances out of Gordie McRae and Grant Cole, who were both at Tulsa a year ago. Michel Dumas was doing almost all the goaltending for Dallas. Fort Worth relied on experienced Glenn Resch, but got some sparkling backup work from Ron Marlow.

Since it was organized in 1963, the CHL has never had exactly the same membership from one season to the next. The 1974-75 campaign promises to be no exception.

The stop-gap independent operation at Tulsa was expected to end after one expensive season, and the Oilers were expected to drop out, unless a National League club could be induced to take over. There were various possibilities, but nothing had been firmed up at Tulsa approached the end of tis 10th CHL season ★

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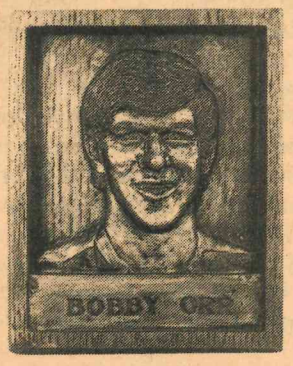

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A GEM OF A GEM

Dayton Gems' captain Dave Simpson is a leading candidate for the Governor's Trophy as the International Hockey League's best defenseman.

BY LEN HOYES

DAVE SIMPSON needed almost four seasons to "finish off" as a hockey player but appears set for life as a star in the International Hockey League.

The 26-year-old defenseman bounced around three teams in the IHL and a fling in the Central Hockey League before becoming permanent party with the Dayton Gems.

Now, Simpson's name it at or near the top when the IHL's experts get around to discussing the Governors' Trophy which is awarded to its top blueliner.

He made an early bid by being named most valuable player in the IHL's annual All Star game, an award which didn't surprise coach Tommy McVie.

McVie, who also became the Gems' general manager on January 1, said "The first day of training camp I knew that Davey was the leader on this team. All of the guys look up to him. He sees that things happen on the ice and off. It's a pleasure to have him on this club."

With that, McVie named Simpson captain, the first time the Gems have had a full-time ice leader since Duncan Rousseau left after the 1969-70 campaign which produced the Turner Cup, emblematic of the playoff championship.

Simpson has rewarded McVie's faith.

When he scored his 16th goal during a hat trick on March 2, Simpson broke the Dayton club record for goals by a defenseman. The record of 15 was set by Al Beaule in 1969-70.

His 17th goal, on the same night, made him the top goal producer among the IHL's defensemen.

Seventeen goals is a startling total when it's pointed out that Simpson totaled only nine during three previous seasons in the IHL.

Simpson has stepped up goal production without any lessening of rugged play. He's annually among the leaders in penalty minutes and on-the-ice antics have made him one of the league's most controversial players.

When the Gems get into a squabble, it's near-certain that Simpson is in the middle. Typically, the Dayton fans think he plays rough and the opponents' fans think he plays dirty. It all depends upon which side you're rooting for.

Simpson admits he plays rough.

He said, "I can play rough and dirty. But I'm checking a lot cleaner this year. I'm still rough, but I figured I'd concentrate more on moving the puck than hitting everyone."

At 5'8" and 170 pounds, Simpson doesn't rate in the heavyweight class but that doesn't faze him.

He said, "I doesn't matter to me who the fight is with. So I get a black eye. Big deal."

Simpson has needed only four seasons to accumulate 1,100 penalty minutes in the IHL and rates in the top 10 on the all-time list. Even Gordon Malinoski, an ex-teammate who is regarded as a worse "bad man" than Simpson, required five seasons to reach that figure.

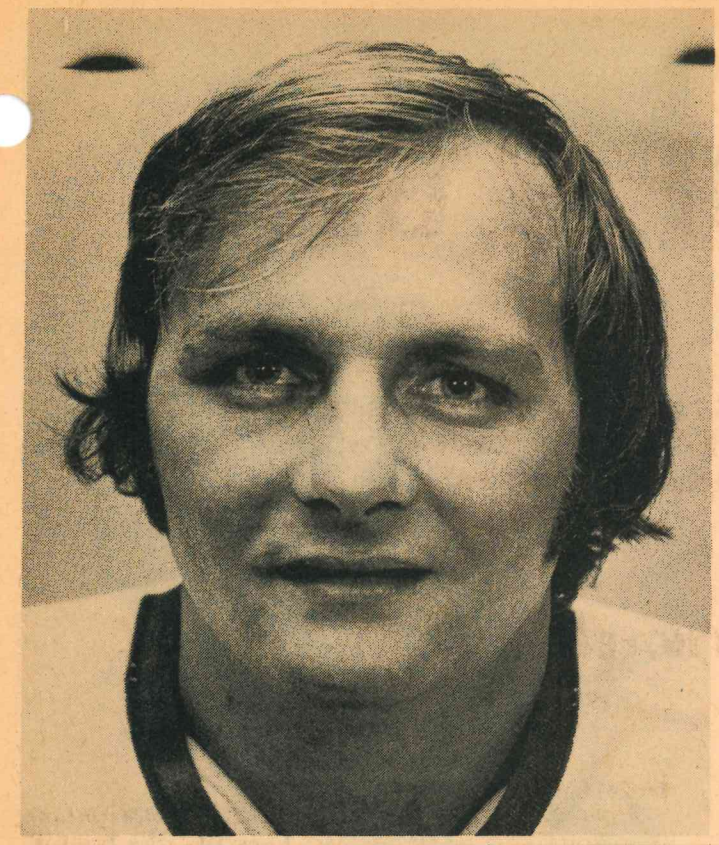
At his rate of more than 275 PIM per season, Simpson is a good bet to become the all-time bad man, replacing Ivan (The Terrible) Prediger who spent 2,027 minutes in the sin bin during a nine-season career with Omaha, Fort Wayne, Des Moines and Toledo.

Simpson hasn't changed his habits despite being captain.

"I had a good attitude when I came here this year, so I don't think I'm playing better because I'm captain. There's personal pride involved. I appreciate the honor."

His stepped-up scoring is somewhat ironic because it came in the same season when Pete Mara won the IHL scoring title and set a point record for the Des Moines Capitols.

Simpson and Mara were involved in a 1969 swap, Simpson going to Port Huron and Mara to Des Moines. He lasted only two months in Port Huron before being peddled to Dayton in January, 1970.



Simpson could be heading for the IHL's all-time penalty record.

A pro in the Pittsburgh Penguins' organization, Simpson spent the 1970-71 season at Amarillo in the Central League which was his venue two years earlier in his first pro season.

After scoring three goals and 13 points in 49 games —with only 74 penalty minutes— Simpson came back to Dayton for the 1971-72 season.

He's been an important cog in the defense while working under three different coaches: Gerry Moore, now at Oklahoma City, in 1971-72, Jim Anderson, now scouting in the Boston Bruins' organization, in 1972-73, and with McVie who became coach this season.

Defense has been a strong point in the Gems' 10-season history. And it's been more of the same with Simpson spent the 1970-71 season at Amarillo in the natyne as the hub of the blueline corps.

It's significant that Dayton has produced outstanding All Star defensemen Moe Benoit, Al Beaule and Weighill made the first or second teams a total of seven times and Benoit and Beaule are former winners of the Governors' Trophy.

It would surprise no one in Dayton if Simpson joins that group in 1973-74★

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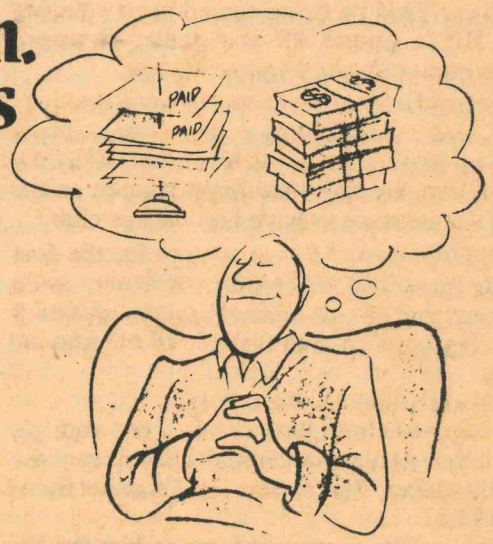

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PLAYING IN OBSCURITY

For the past two seasons Bobby Guindon has played on a team with a 57-goal scorer and a 68-goal scorer. It's no wonder the North American Hockey League winger goes unnoticed.

BY DEREK KNIGHT

A 24-YEAR-OLD right winger named Bobby Guindon must be wondering just what it will take to be noticed. Based on his accomplishments, you would think a 30 goal scorer two consecutive seasons would have no trouble, but consider this.

Last year Bobby played for Rhode Island where he enjoyed a successful season. However, a rookie named Dave Walter totaled 57 goals and 57 assists, and virtually most of the ink from the news media and the attention from the pro scouts.

With Rhode Island and the Eastern Hockey League out of the picture, Bobby had to look for another team. Well, not really because as it turned out, several NAHL teams were looking for Bobby. After weighing discussions with those teams interested in him, Bobby chose Cape Cod.

Again Bobby reached the 30 goal plateau but the headlines belonged to Luc Simard, the scoring champion of the NAHL with 68 goals and 56 assists for 124 points.

Yet for his efforts Guindon should also have figured in on the headlines. The hustling forward is not considered a big goal scorer yet he scores his 30 goals. Instead Bobby is more of a defensive forward who back-checks and forechecks his way to success. "I just hustle all the time," says Bobby, "and the breaks come.

"Back-checking is the strongest part of my game," continued the young winger, "and when you back-check consistently, you're bound to come up with your share of loose pucks."

That is Bobby's game. He'll dig in the corners, harass an opponent, and buzz in and around the goaltender's cage. But does anyone notice?

Ralph Lombardi, who represents Bobby for Can-Am Hockey Agency Ltd. of New York (a new representative firm dealing with hockey players) certainly has noticed.

"Bobby wants a shot in a WHA camp and I feel his accomplishments merit at least a chance," says Lombardi. "Can-Am is going to do their best to get him that chance."

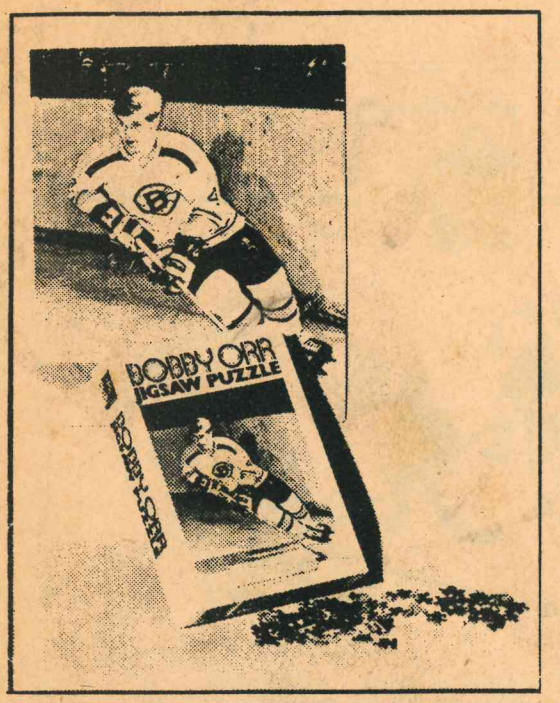
For Bobby the 1973-74 season has been a most difficult one despite personal triumph. No one will tell you that playing for three different coaches is easy, but that's what Bobby and his teammates did. First it was Bronco Horvarth who handled the coaching reins. Then came two player-coaches, interim player-coach Mike DeMarco and present player-coach Nick Polano. Then came rumors of the club folding in January, followed by a losing streak. Towards the end of the regular season there were other rumors. Trade rumors, and Bobby's name was mentioned.

All of this makes Bobby's 31 goals and 19 assists stand out all the more as he continued to play his pesky checking game.

Although he missed only four games he was forced to play with several nagging injuries, including some facial injuries that required Bobby to don a football type helmet with a face mask.

What it all boils down to now though is a shot at the big time. "I just want a shot with a WHA club," says Bobby. "I know if I can get invited to a pro camp I'll get a contract," continued the confident skater.

With expansion teams slated for Indianapolis and Phoenix this year and Cincinnati the next, an invitation to camp could be coming. He's not asking for the moon, just an invitation. An invitation that might put Bobby Guindon into perspective as a solid two way hockey player★



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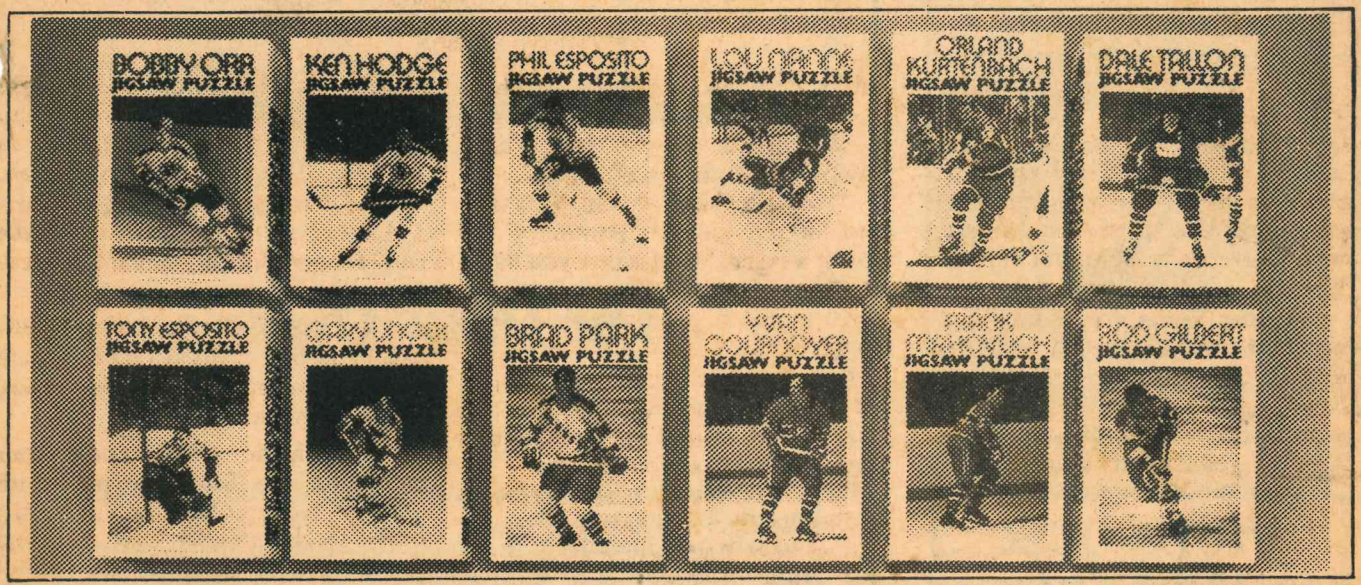
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Sharing...

(Continued from page 59)

peted in one of their first two years in the league. The Wings won six and lost seven of 13 games, while Richmond lost all four of its games.

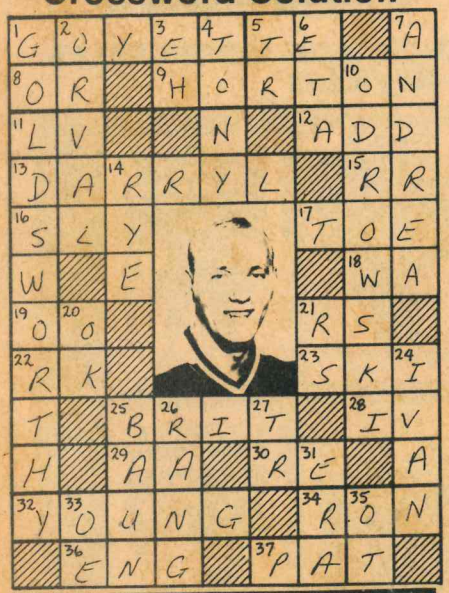
The closeness of the race for first, second and third in the Southern Division should make for especially fine series in that division.

But no matter what happens, the American Hockey League has come a long way to its present pool of $260,000 for the playoffs and positional finishes.

As recently as 1971, only $140,000 was up for grabs. Until the $260,000 pool was established for the 1972 playoffs, the highest previous total available was $169,000 in 1070.

And however you look at it, $4,000 for finishing first and winning the playoffs in a minor league is not bad, not bad at all★

Crossword Solution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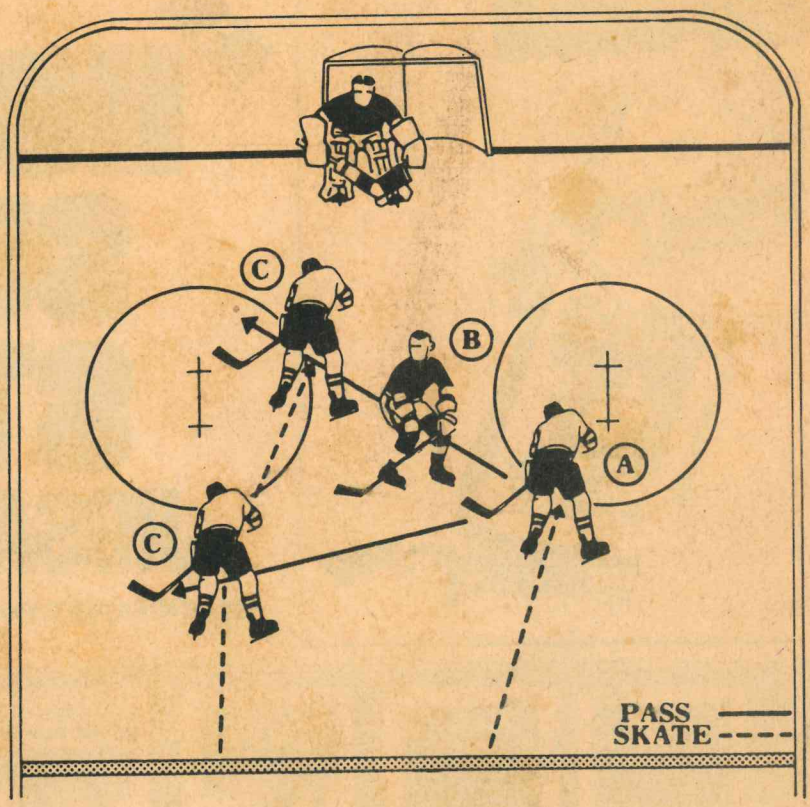
11 L V N 12 A D D
13 D A 14 R R Y L 15 R R
16 S L Y 17 T O E
W E 18 W A
19 O 20 O 21 R S
22 R K 23 S K 24 I
T 25 B 26 R I 27 T 28 I V
H 29 A A 30 R 31 E A
32 Y 33 O U N G 34 R 35 O N
36 E N G 37 P A T

PICTO-QUIZ ANSWERS

1—BOB LEITER
2—JIM McKENNY
3—ED VAN IMPE
4—RICK SMITH
5—GUY CHARRON
6—AL HAMILTON
7—CHRIS BORDELEAU
8—RENE ROBERT

HOCKEY TIPS FOR KIDS



The Draw Over

In this play, the puck carrier (A) skates hard to one side of the lone defenceman (B).

When the defenceman follows, the attacker spurts so he can pass ahead of the check, or stops suddenly so he can pass behind and over to his teammate (C).

The trick is in the skating speeds — getting the pass receiver into the clear close enough to the goal to be effective. The pass timing is essential, too. If the pass is behind the defenceman, it may have to be slow to meet the man coming in. If ahead, faster to make up for his speed and the fact you want it just ahead of him going in on goal. If he has to stop for the pass, the momentum is broken.